BLUE BEETLE
12¢
DECEMBER
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BLUE BEETLE
AN ARMY OF GIANT INSECTS ON THE RAMPAGE! RUN FOR YOUR LIFE HERE THEY COME.... "The PEOPLE-THIEVES"
YOU GUESSED IT! HE'S BEHIND THIS HEINOUS DEED..
THE PRAYING MANTIS MAN BACK FOR VENGEANCE

Charlton Action Heroes

HaCsA - Once-Ler scans

Blue Beetle Vol3 #53
Still not very good.

HACKSAW!!!

BLUE BEETLE
AN ARMY OF GIANT INSECTS ON THE RAMPAGE! RUN FOR YOUR LIFE HERE THEY COME... "The PEOPLE-THIEVES!"
THE PRAYING MANTIS MAN BACK FOR VENGEANCE

PART 1 THE PEOPLE THIEVES

ONCE MORE THEY MEET...THESE DEADLY DUELISTS...HUNTER MANN, THE NATURALIST WHOSE WEIRD EXPERIMENTS WITH GIANT INSECTS LED TO THE STRANGEST CREATION IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND...AS THE NATURALIST ACQUIRED THE CHARACTERISTICS OF ONE OF THE SPECIES WITH WHICH HE WORKED...THE PRAYING MANTIS! NOW...HALF-MAN, HALF-MANTIS, THE RUTHLESS SCIENTIST WAS ASTRIDE ANOTHER OF HIS MUTATIONS...A HUGE DRAGONFLY! AND THIS TIME, HIS DREAMS OF EVIL WERE SO VAST...THAT IF THE BLUE BEETLE FAILS...OUR WORLD, AS WE KNOW IT, IS DOOMED!

ONE BLAST OF MY FRIGI-GUN WILL END YOUR MEDDLING, BLUE BEETLE! YOU'LL BE STORED IN A BIN IN THE SLAVE-CAVE WITH ALL THE OTHERS!

YOU'RE MAD, MANTIS-MAN...I'M GOING TO STOP YOU THIS TIME!

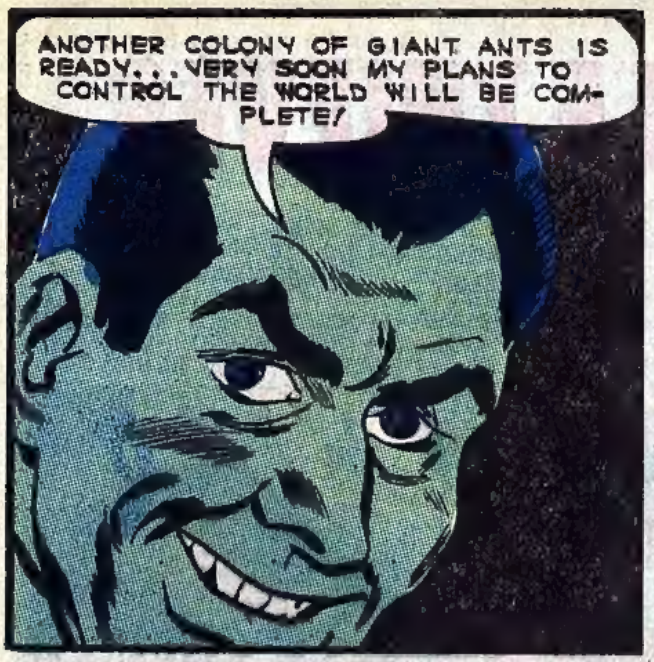
A-5101

THE BRILLIANT SCIENTIST WAS CONDUCTING HIS EXPERIMENTS IN A SECRET LABORATORY DEEP IN AN EASTERN MOUNTAIN CHAIN...IN A VAST CAVE THE NATURALIST HAD CONVERTED TO HIS OWN USE!

TWEEZERS, 119!

119 WAS AN ARMY ANT--100,000 TIMES ENLARGED BY THE MANTIS-MAN'S EXPERIMENTS! AND UTILIZING ITS OWN NATIVE INTELLIGENCE TO OBEY THE ORDERS OF THIS MASTER OF THE INSECT WORLD!

BLUE BEETLE Vol. 3, No. 53, Dec., 1965, published bimonthly by Charlton Comics Group, Charlton Building, Derby, Conn. Second Class postage paid at Derby, Conn.


ANOTHER COLONY OF GIANT ANTS IS READY...VERY SOON MY PLANS TO CONTROL THE WORLD WILL BE COMPLETE!

INSECTS ARE FAR MORE PROLIFIC AND FITTED TO RULE! IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL CERTAIN SPECIES SUCH AS THE ARMY ANTS, CONQUERED THE WORLD!

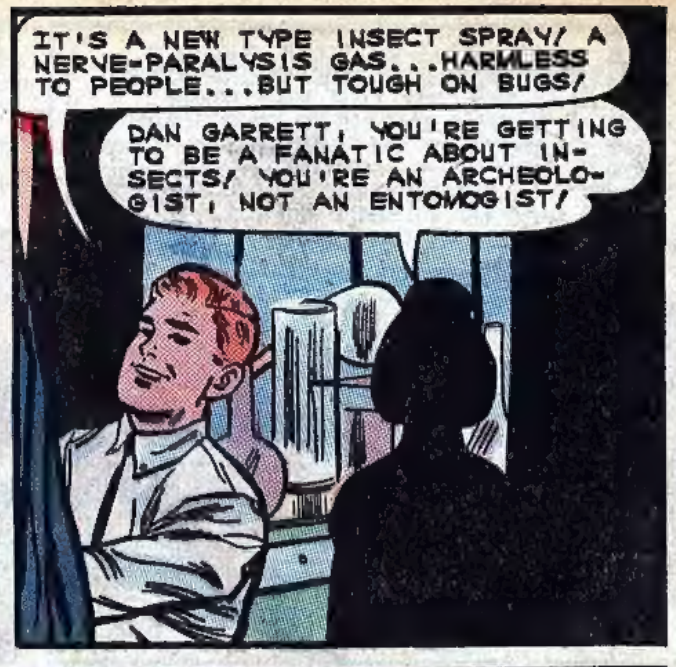
I AM MERELY ACCELERATING EVOLUTION, GIVING HISTORY A SLIGHT NUDGE, SO TO SPEAK! OF COURSE... WHEN MAN NO LONGER RULES THIS PLANET...I WILL! THE INSECTS I CREATED WILL OBEY ME! THIS WORLD REJECTED ME, LAUGHED AT ME, CALLED ME HIDEOUS WHEN MY SKIN ABSORBED TOO MUCH CHLOROPHYLL AND TURNED GREEN!

NOTHING WILL STOP ME THIS TIME! LET THE BLUE BEETLE COME...I'LL BE READY FOR HIM!

BLUE BEETLE HAD BEEN AT WORK... AT A TENEMENT FIRE IN NEW YORK CITY WITH TRAPPED CHILDREN ON THE TOP FLOOR...AND HE HAD GOTTEN THEM DOWN SAFELY! NOW, HE'S ON HIS WAY BACK TO...

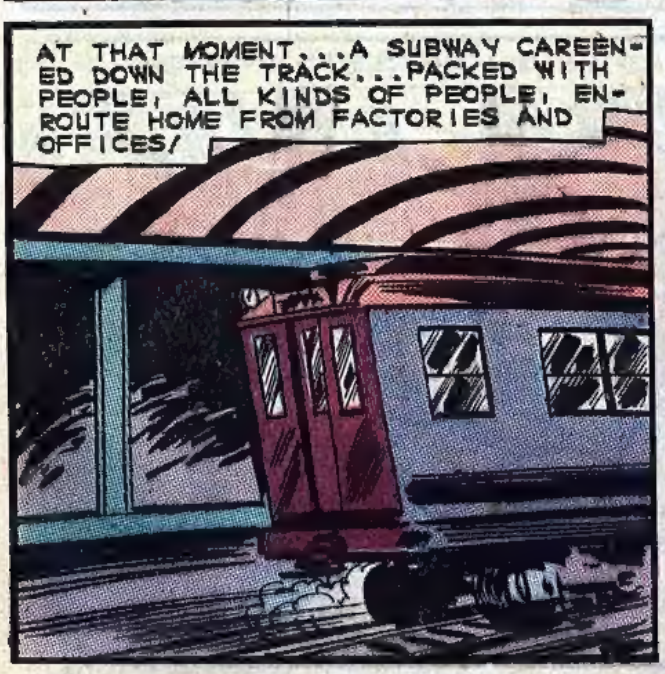
...RESUME HIS IDENTITY AS DR. DAN GARRETT, ARCHEOLOGIST...WHO, AT THE MOMENT, IS ENTERTAINING A LOVELY GUEST!
DAN, YOU SAID YOU'D BE READY TO TAKE ME TO DINNER AT SEVEN SHARP!

I'M READY NOW, DIANE! I WANTED TO GET THIS LITTLE BEAUTY FINISHED BEFORE WE LEFT!
UGH! WHAT IS IT?

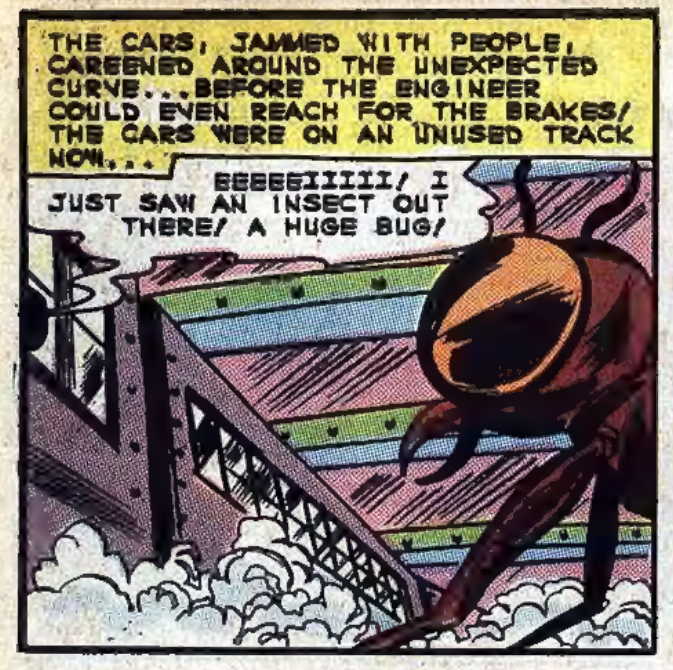

IT'S A NEW TYPE INSECT SPRAY! A NERVE-PARALYSIS GAS...HARMLESS TO PEOPLE...BUT TOUGH ON BUGS!
DAN GARRETT, YOU'RE GETTING TO BE A FANATIC ABOUT INSECTS! YOU'RE AN ARCHEOLOGIST, NOT AN ENTOMOGIST!

I KNEW SOMEONE...HALF-MAN, HALF-MANTIS, DIANE! AND HE WAS TRYING TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF CERTAIN SPECIES! I'M ONLY TOO AWARE NOW OF HOW CLOSE HE CAME TO DESTROYING THE WORLD!

REMEMBERING THAT WEIRD AND ALMOST FATAL EPISODE, DR. DAN GARRETT ONCE MORE OFFERED THANKS THAT THE DEADLY CREATURE WAS NO MORE!
INSECTS ARE LARGER AND MORE OF A MENACE TODAY!

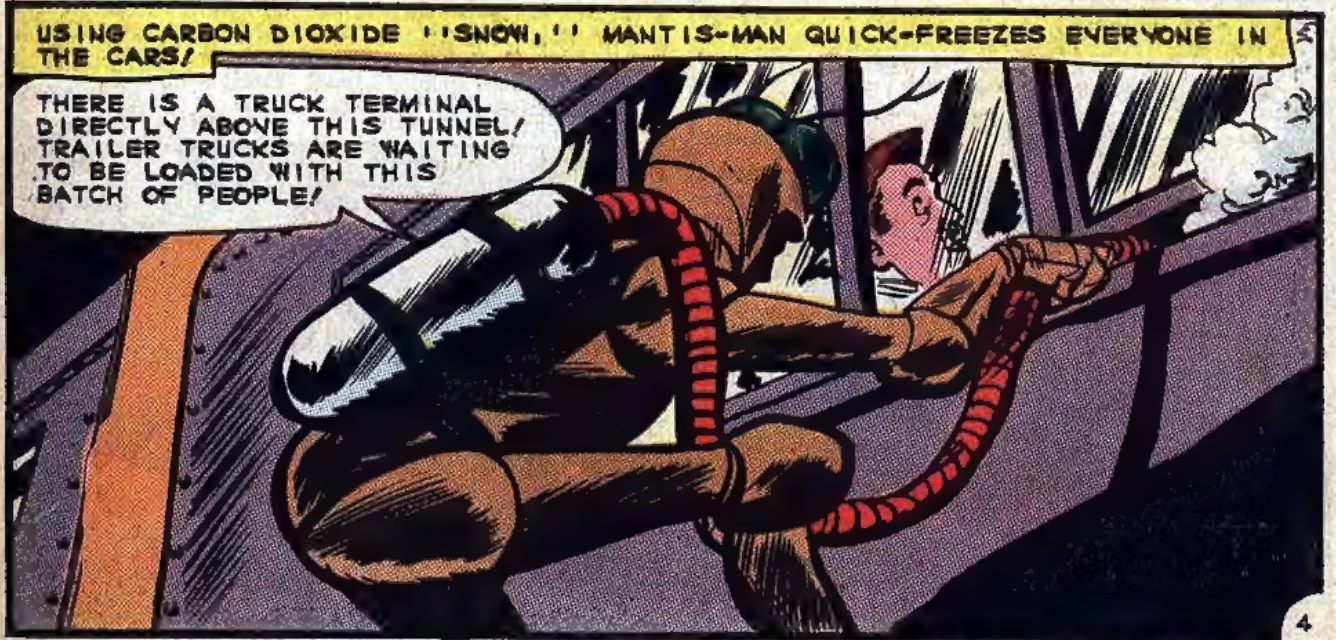

AT THAT MOMENT...A SUBWAY CAREENED DOWN THE TRACK...PACKED WITH PEOPLE, ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE, ENROUTE HOME FROM FACTORIES AND OFFICES!

JUST AHEAD WAS ONE OF THE UNUSED BRANCH LINES...THE RUSTING TRACKS LEADING INTO A WALL LONG BUILT AND FORGOTTEN! BUT THE BRICKS HAD BEEN REMOVED...AND A STRANGE CREATURE THREW THE SWITCH...
CLICK


THE CARS, JAMMED WITH PEOPLE, CAREENED AROUND THE UNEXPECTED CURVE...BEFORE THE ENGINEER COULD EVEN REACH FOR THE BRAKES/ THE CARS WERE ON AN UNUSED TRACK NOW...
EEEEEIIIII/ I JUST SAW AN INSECT OUT THERE/ A HUGE BUG/

MANTIS-MAN WAS THERE...IGNORING THE BELLOWS OF RAGE, THE TERRIFIED SCREAMS...GIVING ORDERS TO HIS ANTS/
SEAL OFF THE WALL, 248/ WE WILL PROCESS THIS BATCH FOR TRANSPORT WHILE YOUR SQUAD ERECTS THE BRICKS/

DID YOU SWITCH US INTO THIS TUNNEL? HEY, WHAT KINDA WEIRDO ARE YOU?
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR TRESPASS AND WHATEVER OTHER CHARGES WE CAN DREAM UP LATER, MACK!

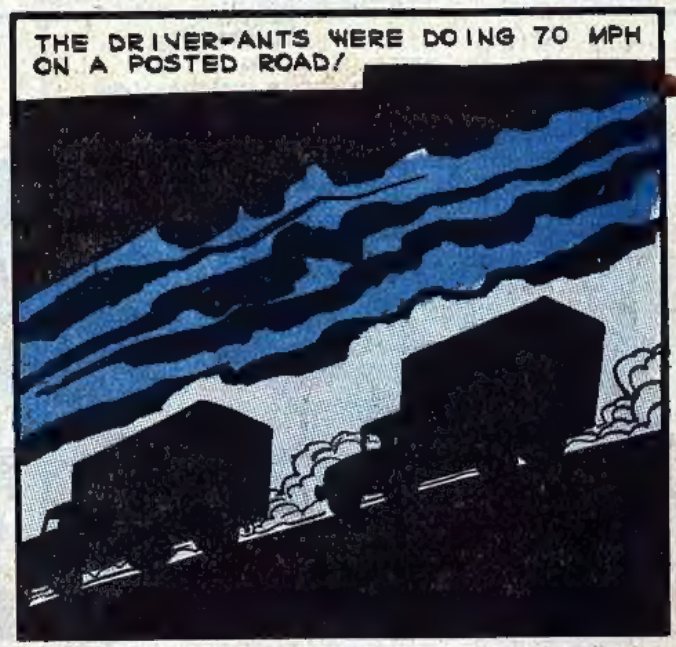

USING CARBON DIOXIDE "SNOW," MANTIS-MAN QUICK-FREEZES EVERYONE IN THE CARS/
THERE IS A TRUCK TERMINAL DIRECTLY ABOVE THIS TUNNEL/ TRAILER TRUCKS ARE WAITING TO BE LOADED WITH THIS BATCH OF PEOPLE/

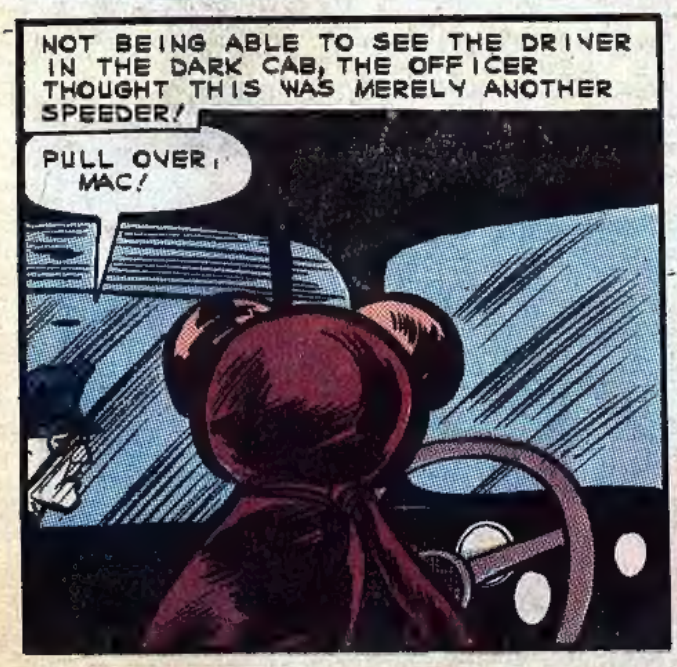
CONTINUED AFTER THE NEXT TWO PAGES

THE AMAZING GIANT ANTS HAD WORKED TIRELESSLY AND WITH AMAZING SPEED/ IN LESS THAN FIVE MINUTES, THE WALL WAS BACK...AND THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE THAT A TRAIN HAD PASSED THAT WAY/
BRILLIANT WORK/ IF ONLY THE BLUE BEETLE HAD BEEN ABOARD THAT TRAIN/

MANTIS-MAN HAD NO HUMANS ON HIS TEAM/ DRIVER-ANTS, ALMOST AS BIG AS A MAN, DID EVERYTHING/
GET THESE LAST FEW LOADED/ THEY'LL REMAIN FROZEN UNTIL WE REACH THE CAVES IN THE MOUNTAINS/

AS THE EERIE CONVOY MADE ITS WAY TOWARD THE SECRET MOUNTAIN CAVES, A MOTORCYCLE POLICEMAN WAS ON PATROL/


THE DRIVER-ANTS WERE DOING 70 MPH ON A POSTED ROAD/


NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE THE DRIVER IN THE DARK CAB, THE OFFICER THOUGHT THIS WAS MERELY ANOTHER SPEEDER/
PULL OVER, MAC/

MANTIS-MAN WAS FOLLOWING THE CONVOY...AND NOW HE SAW THE POLICEMAN FLAG DOWN THE LEAD TRUCK/
HE'LL RUIN EVERYTHING...UNLESS...

MANTIS-MAN NUDGED THE GIANT DRAGONFLY AND THE WIDE-WINGED CREATURE ROARED DOWN AT THE PATROLMAN! THE LAW OFFICER GAPED FOR A SPLIT SECOND...AND LOST CONTROL OF HIS MOTORCYCLE!

HOLY HANNAH!

HE'LL TALK, OF COURSE... BUT NO ONE WILL BELIEVE HIM!

ZOOM

AND WHILE THIS WAS HAPPENING, DR. DAN GARRETT WAS ENJOYING DINNER WITH A LOVELY COMPANION!

THE WAITER IS APOLOGETIC ABOUT OUR STEAK, DAN! HE TOLD ME WHILE YOU WERE GONE THAT THE CHEF DIDN'T COME TO WORK TONIGHT!

THAT'S ODD!

I HAPPENED TO HEAR A NEWSCAST... AN ENTIRE SUBWAY TRAIN IS MISSING! I'LL BET THE MISSING CHEF WAS ON IT! NOT A TRACE OF THE CARS OR THE PEOPLE!

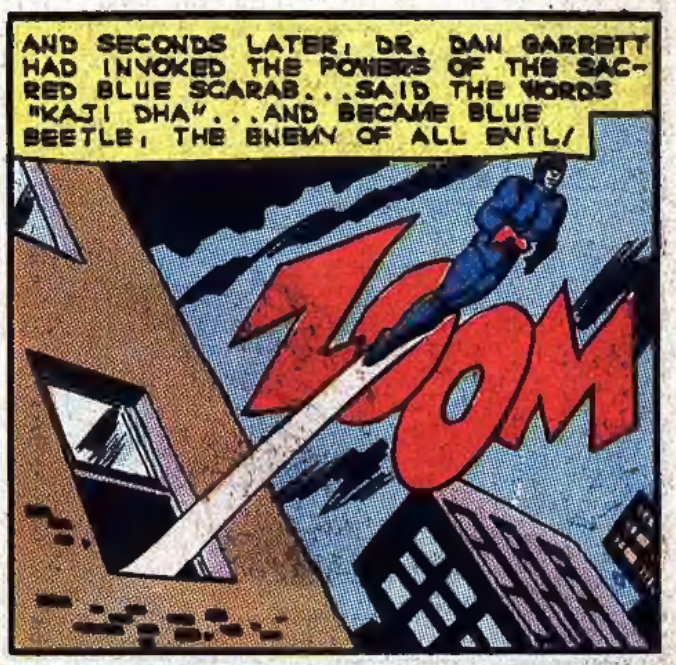
THE WAITER WAS SHAKING AS HE TOLD THE FAMOUS ARCHEOLOGIST ABOUT THE INCIDENT...

JUST VANISHED BETWEEN EUCLID STREET AND 97TH STREET! HOW COULD A SUBWAY WITH ALL THOSE PEOPLE JUST VANISH??

DR. DAN GARRETT WAS ON HIS FEET... HE KNEW HE'D HAVE TO FIND OUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO THOSE PEOPLE!

EXCUSE ME, DIANE! I'LL BE BACK VERY SOON!

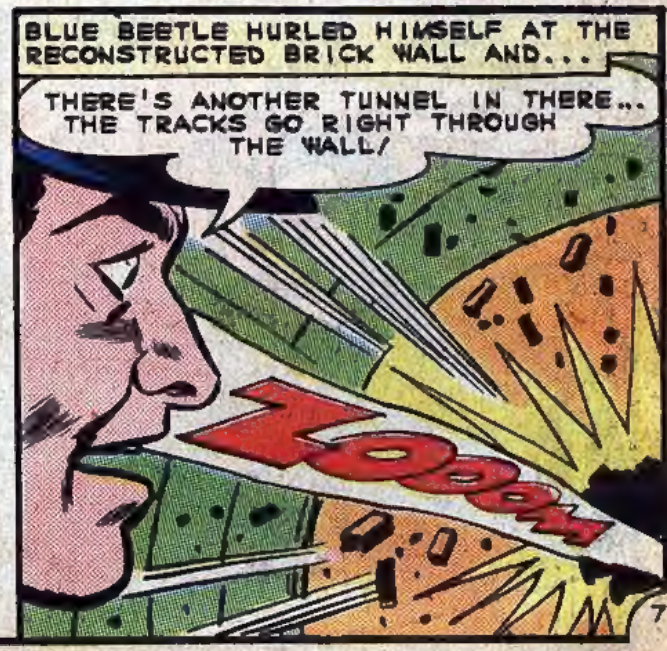
GENTLEMEN

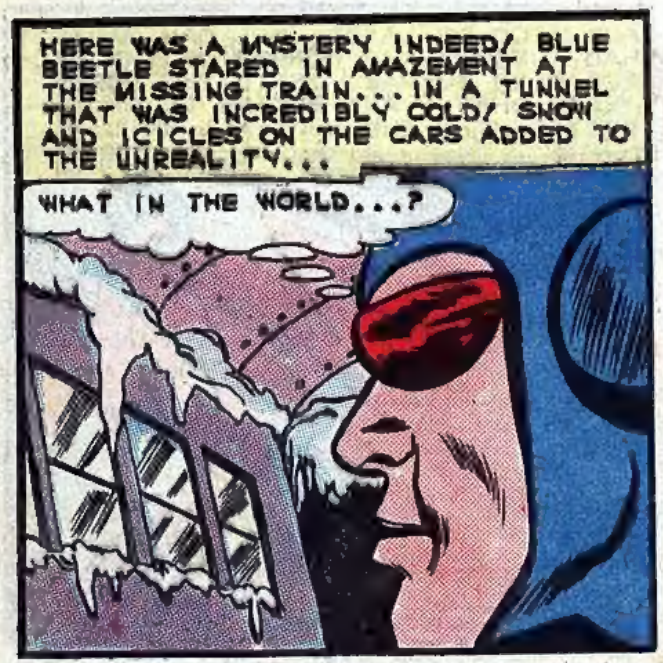

AND SECONDS LATER, DR. DAN GARRETT HAD INVOKED THE POWERS OF THE SACRED BLUE SCARAB...SAID THE WORDS "KAJI DHA"...AND BECAME BLUE BEETLE, THE ENEMY OF ALL EVIL!
ZOOM

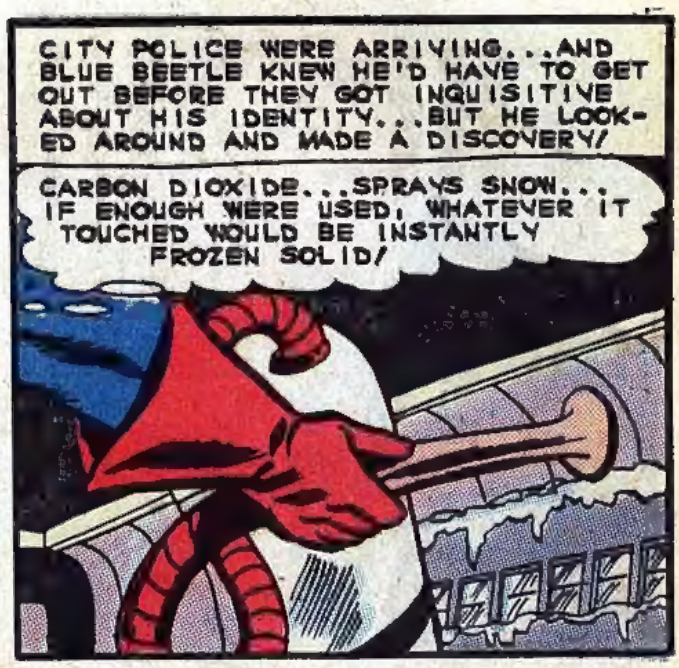
THERE IS THE EUCLID STREET STATION...
SUBWAY

ROARING DOWN THE SUBWAY TUNNEL, BLUE BEETLE'S MICRO-VISION DIDN'T MISS A DETAIL...UNTIL...
WHOA! THAT WALL WAS JUST RE-BUILT!

HALT OR I'LL SHOOT!
ZOW


BLUE BEETLE HURLED HIMSELF AT THE RECONSTRUCTED BRICK WALL AND...
THERE'S ANOTHER TUNNEL IN THERE... THE TRACKS GO RIGHT THROUGH THE WALL!
ZOOOM


HERE WAS A MYSTERY INDEED! BLUE BEETLE STARED IN AMAZEMENT AT THE MISSING TRAIN...IN A TUNNEL THAT WAS INCREDIBLY COLD! SNOW AND ICICLES ON THE CARS ADDED TO THE UNREALITY...
WHAT IN THE WORLD...?


CITY POLICE WERE ARRIVING...AND BLUE BEETLE KNEW HE'D HAVE TO GET OUT BEFORE THEY GOT INQUISITIVE ABOUT HIS IDENTITY...BUT HE LOOKED AROUND AND MADE A DISCOVERY!
CARBON DIOXIDE...SPRAYS SNOW... IF ENOUGH WERE USED, WHATEVER IT TOUCHED WOULD BE INSTANTLY FROZEN SOLID!

PERHAPS THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO THOSE PEOPLE!

IN THE TRUCK TERMINAL, HE FOUND THE NIGHT WATCHMAN...FROZEN SOLID, CONFIRMING HIS DEDUCTION!
THE VICTIMS WERE TAKEN UP HERE AND LOADED INTO TRUCKS!

QUICK-FROZEN...NO TISSUE DAMAGE...THAWED PROPERLY, HE'LL BE UNINJURED!

IF I HADN'T ELIMINATED HIM ALREADY, I'D THINK THIS WAS THE WORK OF...MANTIS-MAN! NOW...TO RETURN TO THE RESTAURANT AND APOLOGIZE TO DIANE!
END OF PART I

THE HUMAN FISH

There are people who still believe in the mythical lost kingdom of Atlantis. Somewhere it is submerged and the aim is to find it. Now there are only two possible ways in which any kingdom can land at the floor of the ocean. Either there was a terrible flood or some other kind of upheaval. Or it was built there and peopled by creatures that can breathe and live underwater. The second possibility is the one that fires the imagination. And science fiction writers have not been slow in using it as a plot.

However let us keep this within the realm of science reality. If we do have creatures in such a kingdom, how are they going to breathe and live? Again you have only two possibilities. One is that these creatures are going to have gills like a fish. So we think of a beautiful Mermaid. Her upper half is that of a human being and her lower half is that of a fish. We have to give her gills if she is going to swim beneath the surface of the water. We must bear in mind that we do have a lung fish which breathes air and obtains oxygen that way. So our Mermaid could have lungs but that would limit her underwater activity.

But now we turn to another possibility. Our human being must normally carry the oxygen supply with him. This can be done in a variety of ways. Like the scuba expert, he can have the tanks on his back. Or like the deep sea diver he can have his air supplies from above. Or he may be enclosed either in a submarine or caisson and breathe the air supplied to the structure in which he remains.

But now there is another possibility. For recently a hamster was placed in a submerged tank and kept alive by the use of an artificial gill. This was actually a membrane of silicone rubber. This membrane was stretched across the top, bottom, and sides of the tank. It extracted the oxygen from the water and at the same time kept the water from entering the tank.

So it actually acted like the gills of a fish in that it permitted the entry of oxygen into the enclosure and allowed the escape into the water of carbon dioxide exhaled by the animal. This immediately opens up new vistas for those people who would like to look for the lost Kingdom of Atlantis. And also, if they found it and liked the place, they could remain there.

Our undersea explorer is put into a special suit of this material. We do have the problem of increasing pressure as we go down beneath the surface of the water. Once this is solved, the rest is easy. For our adventurous soul dons this suit. He need not worry how long he remains below on the bottom of the ocean floor. Provided, of course, he has sufficient food and water for his needs. But since we can't make this membrane suit very large and we can use concentrated foods, the difficulty is one that can be overcome. How about the water supply? Either a small still to change salt water into fresh water or a chemical container which will separate the salt from the salt water.

But we still have one very important problem left. And that is how to protect our hero within the membrane suit from an assault by some unfriendly deep water fish or the unknown creatures of the world on the bottom of the ocean. You can readily picture a sword fish saying to himself: "That creature doesn't belong here. Better go for him at once. No declaration of war needed!" And the oncoming deadly fish rips open the membrane suit.

We will again have two possibilities. One is to figure how to make that membrane as tough as battleship armor. Or how to surround it with a protective device-like an electrical shock barrier. This I leave to the experts. Or perhaps even the amateurs may come up with a new idea.

Since our hero will carry with him either an undersea camera or a portable TV camera we can check on every detail of his adventure. Watch him discover the entrance to Atlantis. Watch his first meeting with King Neptune. And breathlessly watch him battle a gigantic variety of the Devil Fish. We are at present concentrating our energies on the exploration of outer space. We might as well spend some of those billions and explore the bottom of our oceans and seas now that we have solved the oxygen problem.

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PART 2 BAITING THE TRAP

HIGH ABOVE THE CITY, MANTIS-MAN GLOATED AS HE PREPARED TO BEGIN THE NEXT PHASE OF HIS OPERATION/

MY SPY-PIGEONS HAD FOLLOWED DR. GARRETT AND A GIRL TO THAT BUILDING...THERE THEY SAW A MYSTERIOUS STREAK FLY FROM ONE OF THE WINDOWS... NATURALLY, THAT WAS GARRETT AS BLUE BEETLE/ THERE ARE MY SPIES NOW...

ASCERTAINING THAT BLUE BEETLE HAD NOT RETURNED TO THE BUILDING YET, THE MANTIS-MAN LANDED ...LEARNED OF THE RESTAURANT...AND...

I AM DR. GARRETT/ PLEASE ASK MY DINNER COMPANION TO TAKE THE TAXI JUST OUTSIDE THE DOOR/ IT WILL BRING HER TO ME/ THANK YOU VERY MUCH/

OBTAINING A TAXI WAS EASY FOR THE GREEN DEMON AND HE WAS READY FOR THE GIRL/

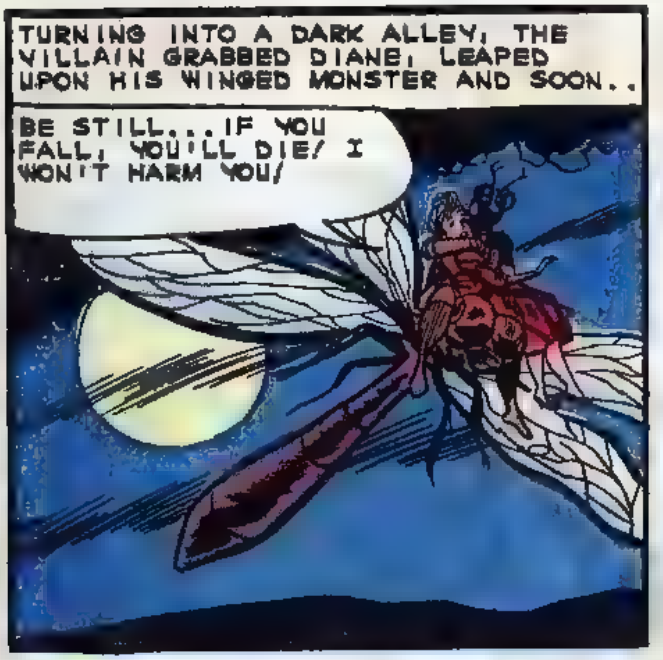
MY ESCORT, DR. GARRETT, SENT A CAB...?

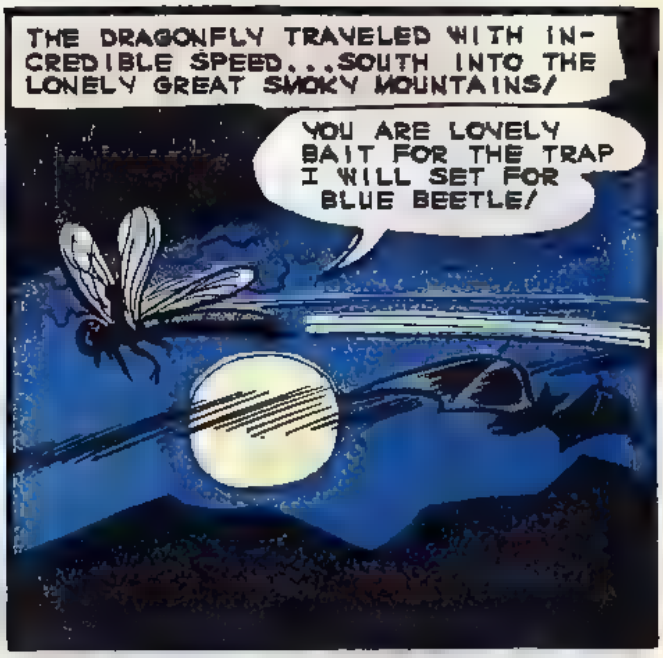
IT'S AT THE CURB, MA'AM/

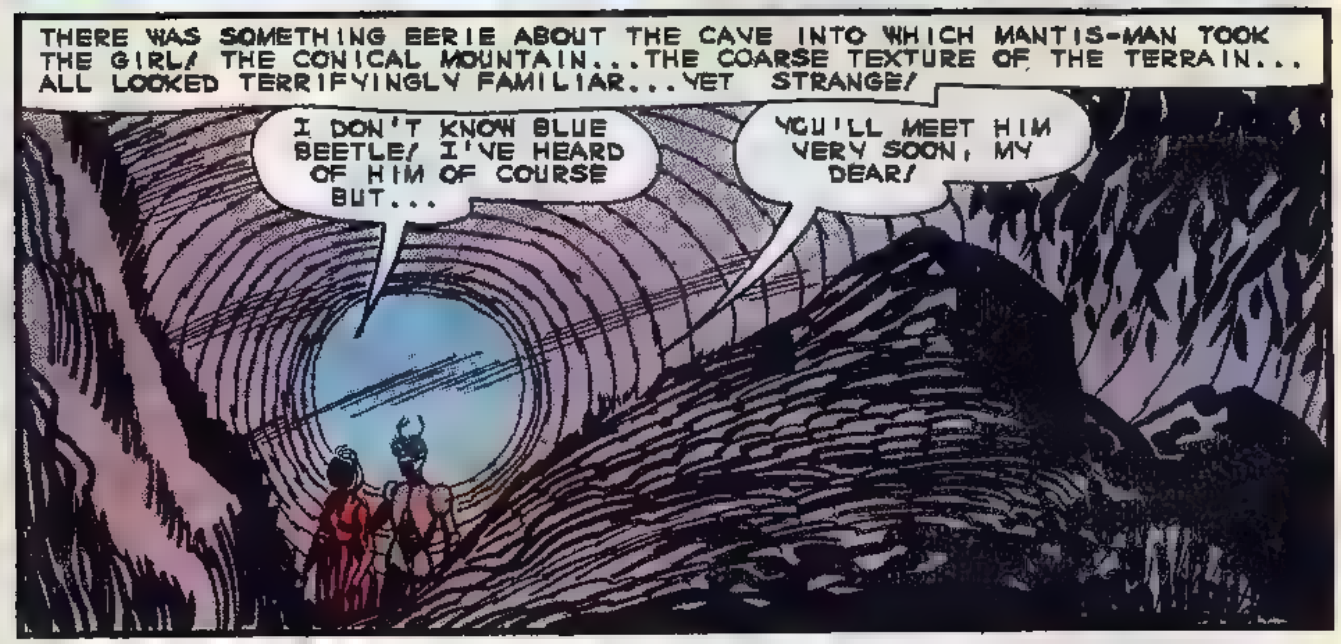
IS DR. GARRETT ALL RIGHT?

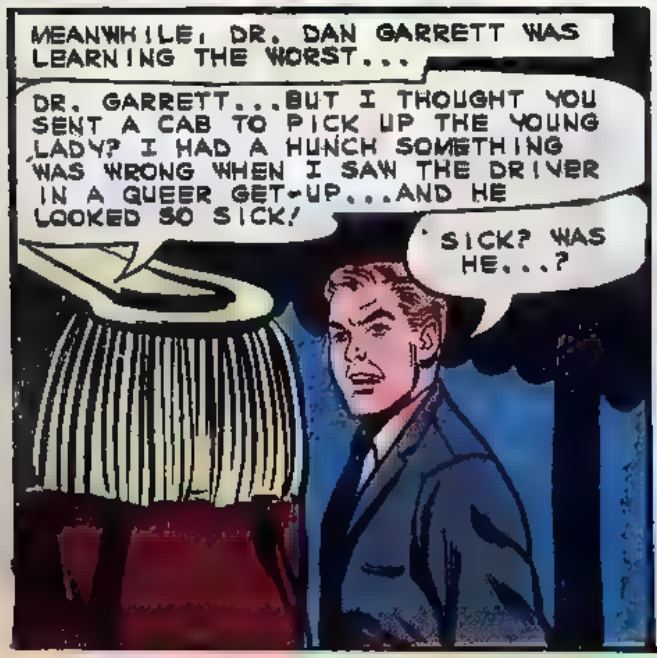
SO FAR, HE'S JUST FINE... NOW, YOU RELAX...LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME/

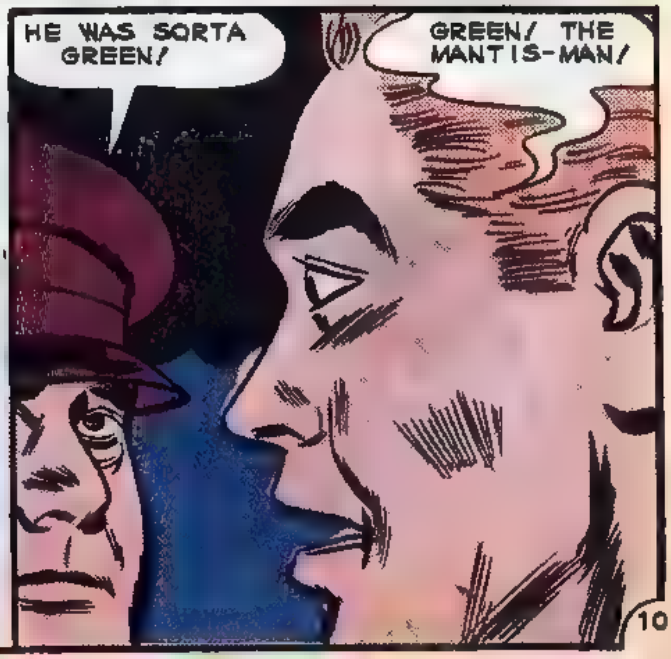
TAXI

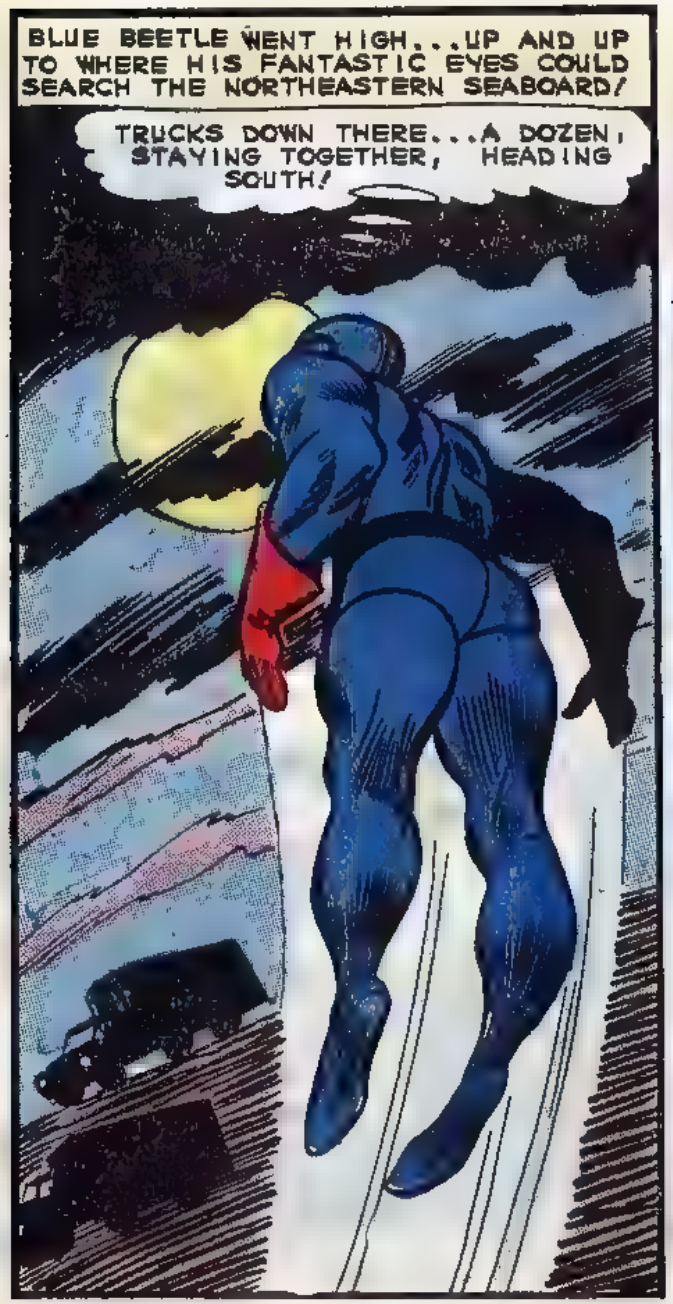

TURNING INTO A DARK ALLEY, THE VILLAIN GRABBED DIANE, LEAPED UPON HIS WINGED MONSTER AND SOON..
BE STILL...IF YOU FALL, YOU'LL DIE/ I WON'T HARM YOU/

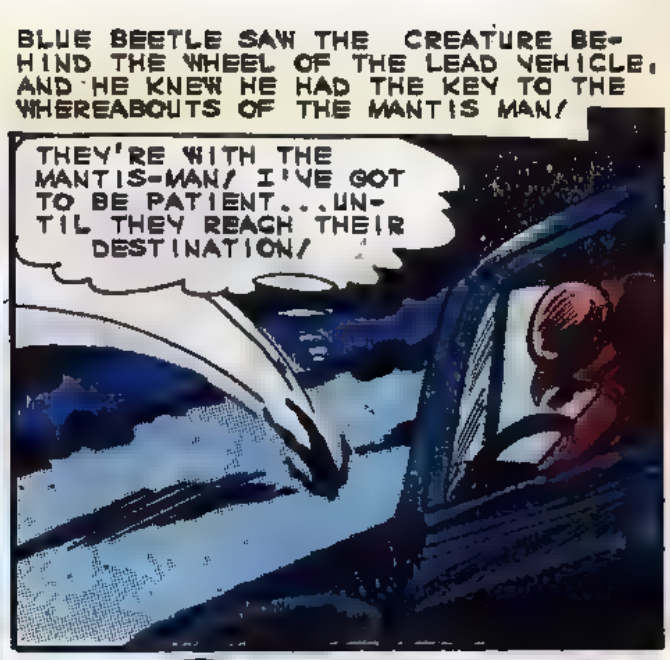

THE DRAGONFLY TRAVELED WITH INCREDIBLE SPEED...SOUTH INTO THE LONELY GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS/
YOU ARE LOVELY BAIT FOR THE TRAP I WILL SET FOR BLUE BEETLE/


THERE WAS SOMETHING EERIE ABOUT THE CAVE INTO WHICH MANTIS-MAN TOOK THE GIRL/ THE CONICAL MOUNTAIN...THE COARSE TEXTURE OF THE TERRAIN... ALL LOOKED TERRIFYINGLY FAMILIAR...YET STRANGE/
I DON'T KNOW BLUE BEETLE/ I'VE HEARD OF HIM OF COURSE BUT...
YOU'LL MEET HIM VERY SOON, MY DEAR/

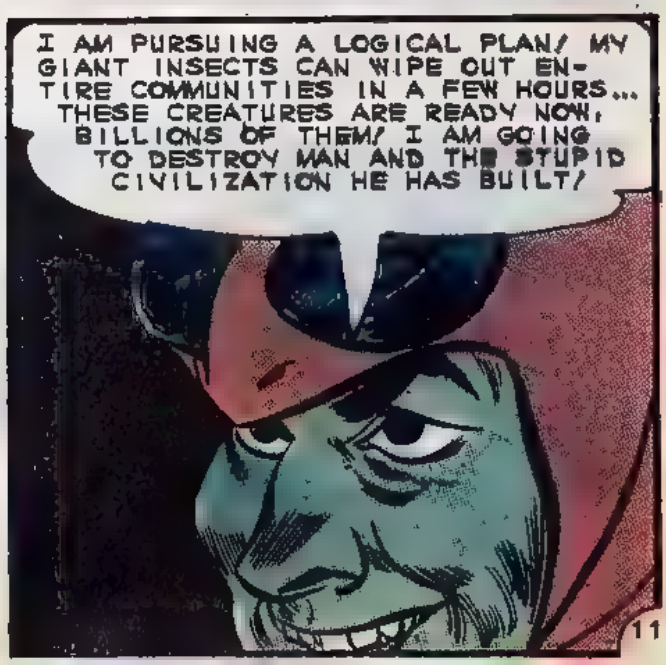

MEANWHILE, DR. DAN GARRETT WAS LEARNING THE WORST...
DR. GARRETT...BUT I THOUGHT YOU SENT A CAB TO PICK UP THE YOUNG LADY? I HAD A HUNCH SOMETHING WAS WRONG WHEN I SAW THE DRIVER IN A QUEER GET-UP...AND HE LOOKED SO SICK/
SICK? WAS HE...?

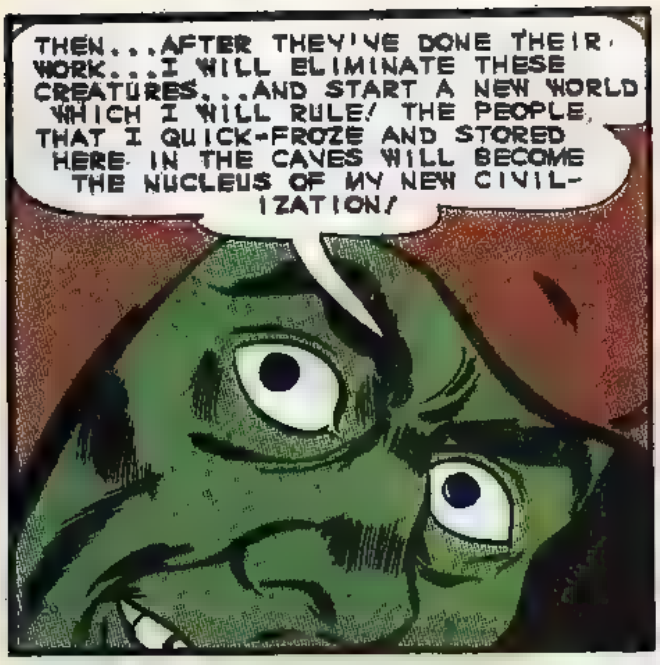

HE WAS SORTA GREEN/
GREEN/ THE MANTIS-MAN/

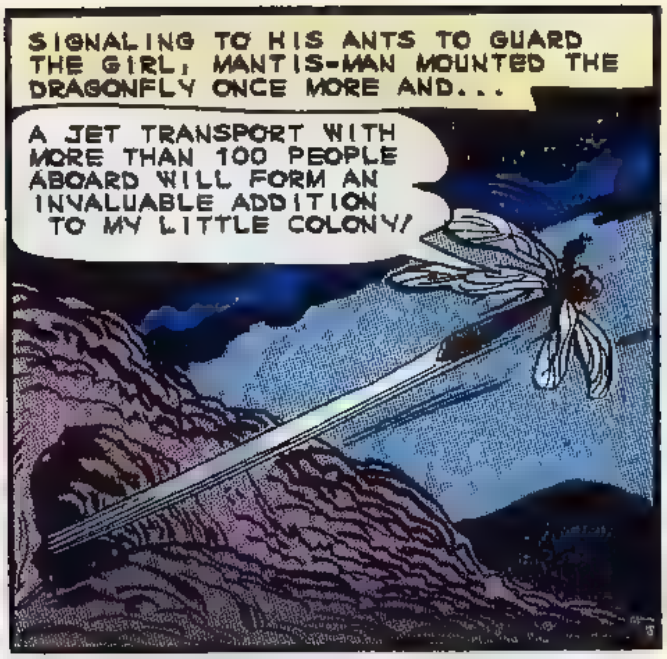

BLUE BEETLE WENT HIGH...UP AND UP TO WHERE HIS FANTASTIC EYES COULD SEARCH THE NORTHEASTERN SEABOARD/
TRUCKS DOWN THERE...A DOZEN, STAYING TOGETHER, HEADING SOUTH/

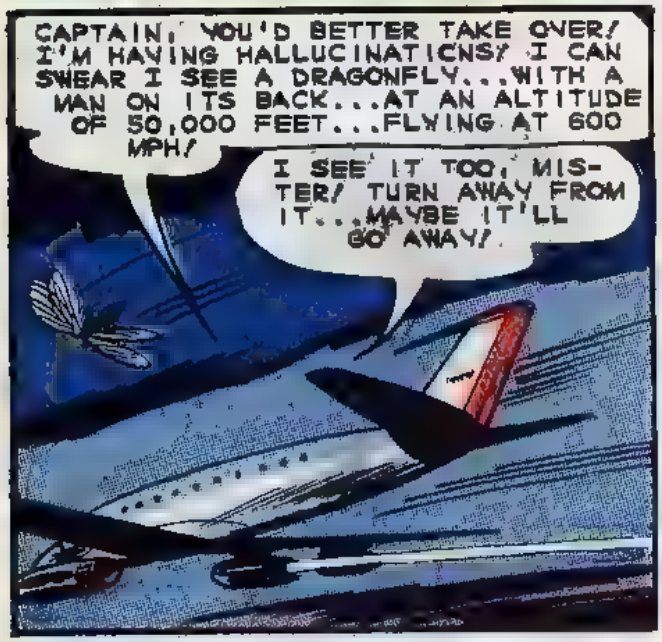

BLUE BEETLE SAW THE CREATURE BEHIND THE WHEEL OF THE LEAD VEHICLE, AND HE KNEW HE HAD THE KEY TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE MANTIS MAN/
THEY'RE WITH THE MANTIS-MAN/ I'VE GOT TO BE PATIENT...UNTIL THEY REACH THEIR DESTINATION/

BLUE BEETLE WILL BE HERE SOON... AND I'M READY FOR HIM/ MEANWHILE...I NEED MORE 'VOLUNTEERS' FOR MY FUTURE PLANS/
WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT? ARE YOU JUST INSANELY CAPTURING PEOPLE OR...

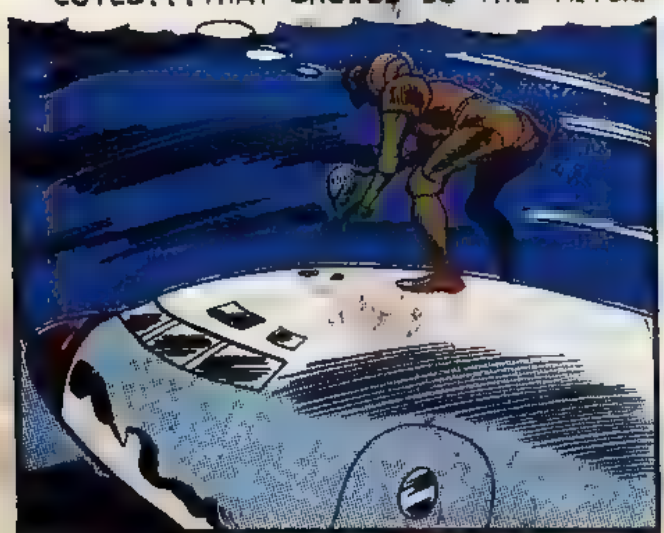

I AM PURSUING A LOGICAL PLAN/ MY GIANT INSECTS CAN WIPE OUT ENTIRE COMMUNITIES IN A FEW HOURS... THESE CREATURES ARE READY NOW, BILLIONS OF THEM/ I AM GOING TO DESTROY MAN AND THE STUPID CIVILIZATION HE HAS BUILT/

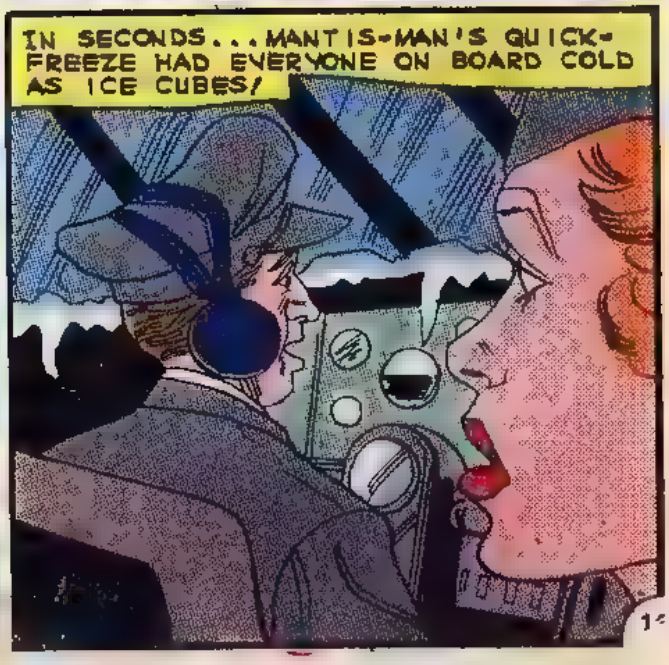

THEN...AFTER THEY'VE DONE THEIR WORK...I WILL ELIMINATE THESE CREATURES...AND START A NEW WORLD WHICH I WILL RULE! THE PEOPLE THAT I QUICK-FROZE AND STORED HERE IN THE CAVES WILL BECOME THE NUCLEUS OF MY NEW CIVILIZATION!

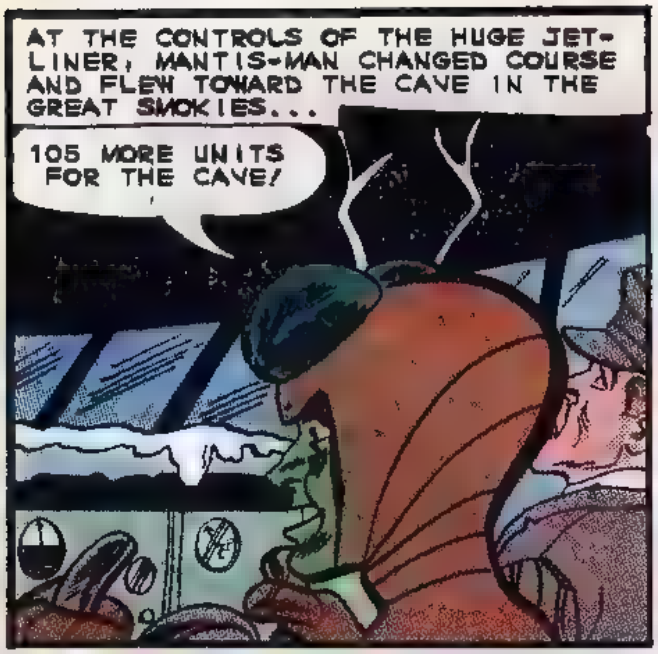

SIGNALING TO HIS ANTS TO GUARD THE GIRL, MANTIS-MAN MOUNTED THE DRAGONFLY ONCE MORE AND...
A JET TRANSPORT WITH MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE ABOARD WILL FORM AN INVALUABLE ADDITION TO MY LITTLE COLONY!

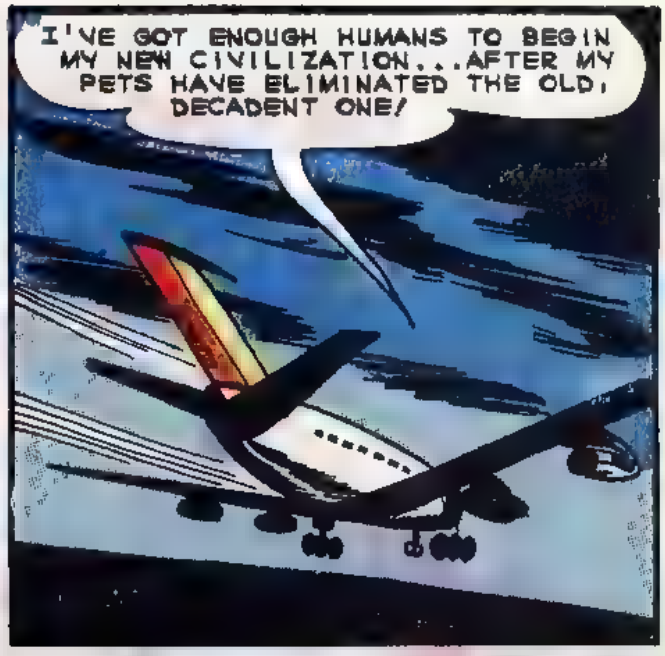

CAPTAIN, YOU'D BETTER TAKE OVER! I'M HAVING HALLUCINATIONS! I CAN SWEAR I SEE A DRAGONFLY...WITH A MAN ON ITS BACK...AT AN ALTITUDE OF 50,000 FEET...FLYING AT 600 MPH!
I SEE IT TOO, MISTER! TURN AWAY FROM IT...MAYBE IT'LL GO AWAY!

CAN'T SHAKE IT, CAPTAIN...
NOW...TO FORCE THEM TO DO AS I SAY!

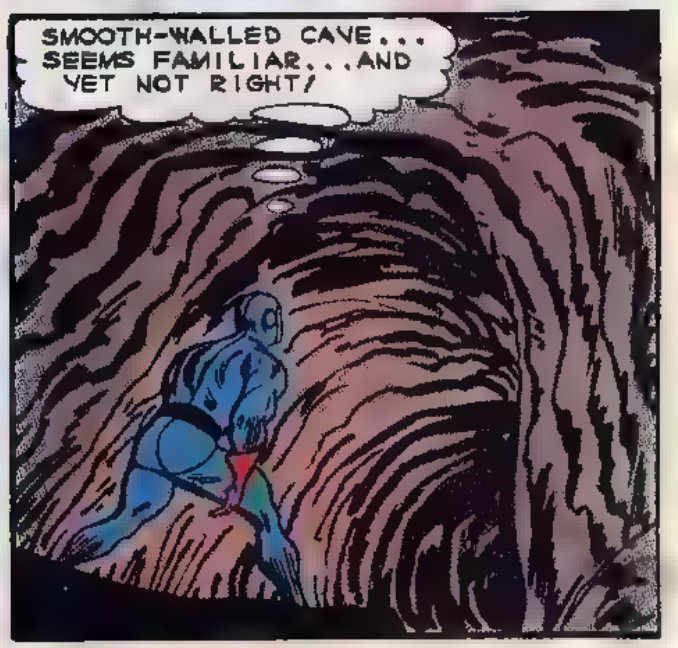

THIS IS THE EXTERNAL FITTING FOR THE AIR CONDITIONER...IF I INJECT LIQUID NITROGEN INTO THE COOLING COILS...THAT SHOULD DO THE TRICK!

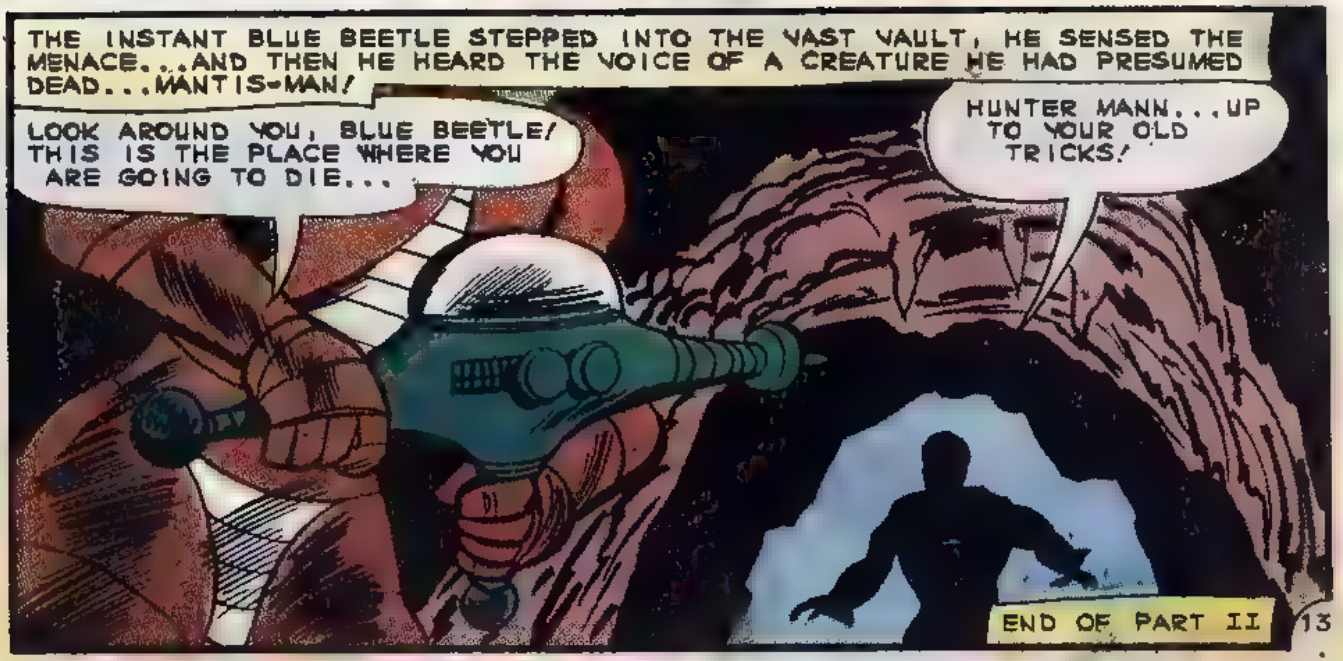

IN SECONDS...MANTIS-MAN'S QUICK-FREEZE HAD EVERYONE ON BOARD COLD AS ICE CUBES!


AT THE CONTROLS OF THE HUGE JET-LINER, MANTIS-MAN CHANGED COURSE AND FLEW TOWARD THE CAVE IN THE GREAT SMOKIES...
105 MORE UNITS FOR THE CAVE!


I'VE GOT ENOUGH HUMANS TO BEGIN MY NEW CIVILIZATION...AFTER MY PETS HAVE ELIMINATED THE OLD, DECADENT ONE!

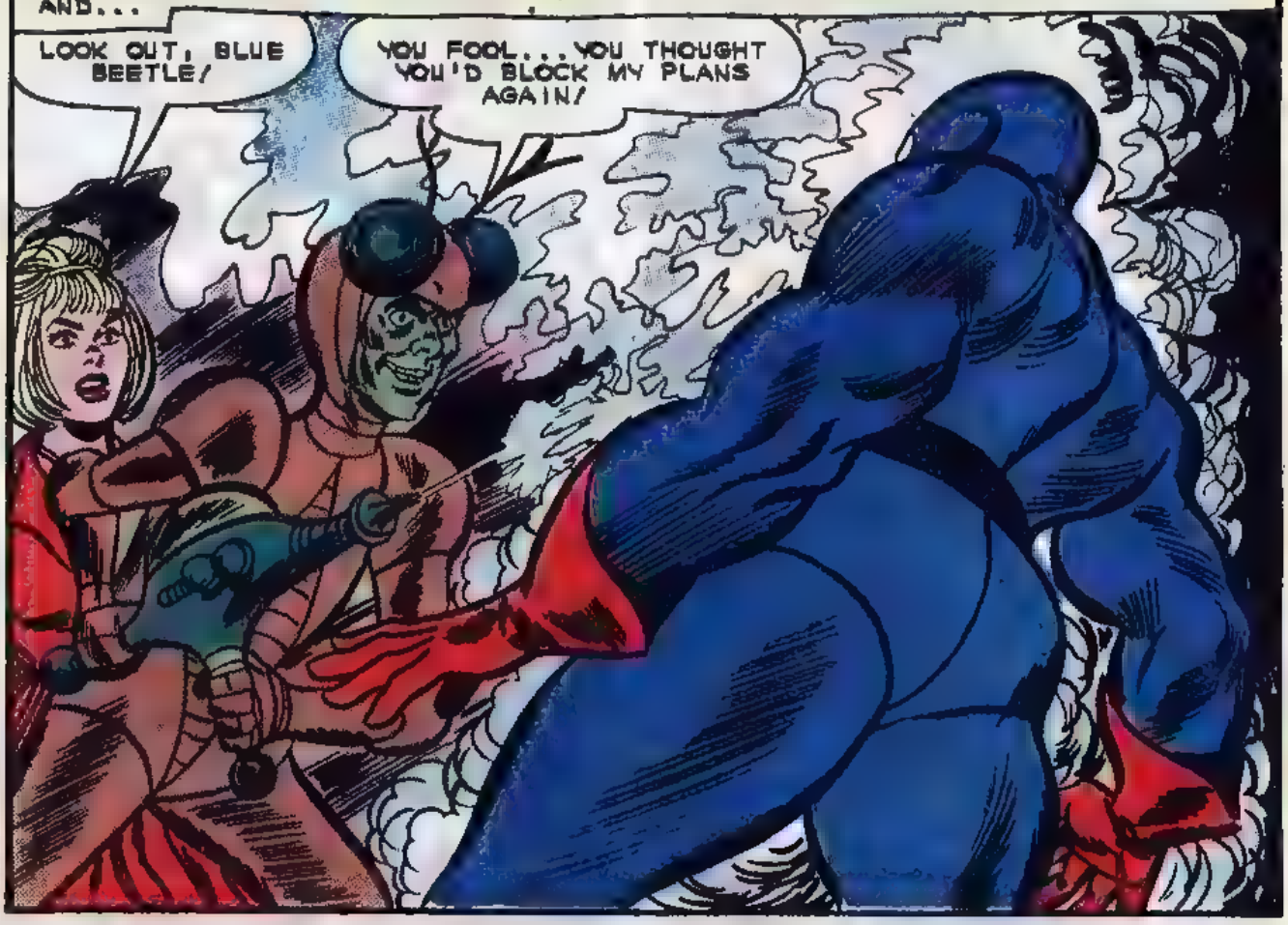
WITH NO OTHER CLUES, BLUE BEETLE HAD BEEN FORCED TO FOLLOW THE TRUCKS SOUTH FROM NEW YORK BUT, NOW...AT LAST...HE'S CAUGHT UP WITH THE MANTIS-MAN.
MANTIS-MAN MUST BE IN THERE!

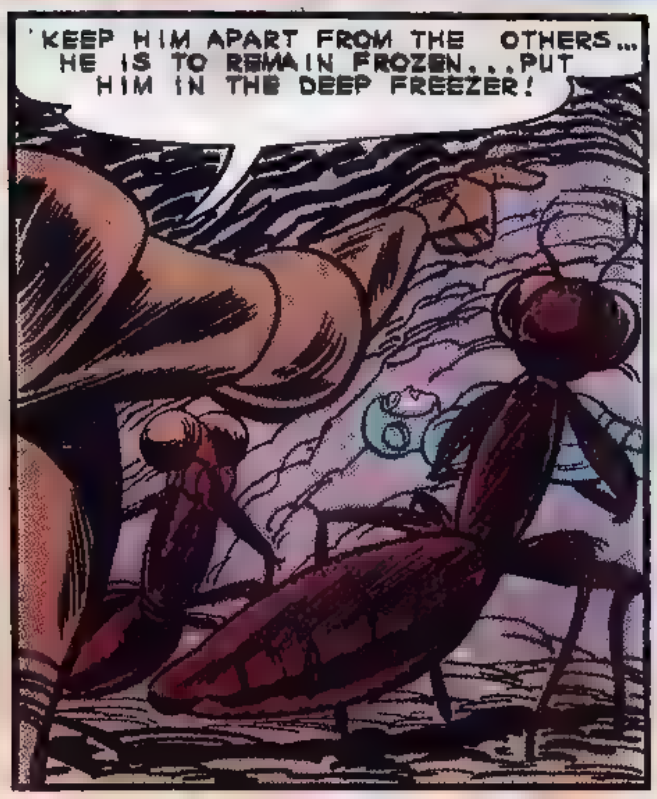

SMOOTH-WALLED CAVE... SEEMS FAMILIAR...AND YET NOT RIGHT!


THE INSTANT BLUE BEETLE STEPPED INTO THE VAST VAULT, HE SENSED THE MENACE...AND THEN HE HEARD THE VOICE OF A CREATURE HE HAD PRESUMED DEAD...MANTIS-MAN!
LOOK AROUND YOU, BLUE BEETLE! THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE YOU ARE GOING TO DIE...
HUNTER MANN...UP TO YOUR OLD TRICKS!
END OF PART II

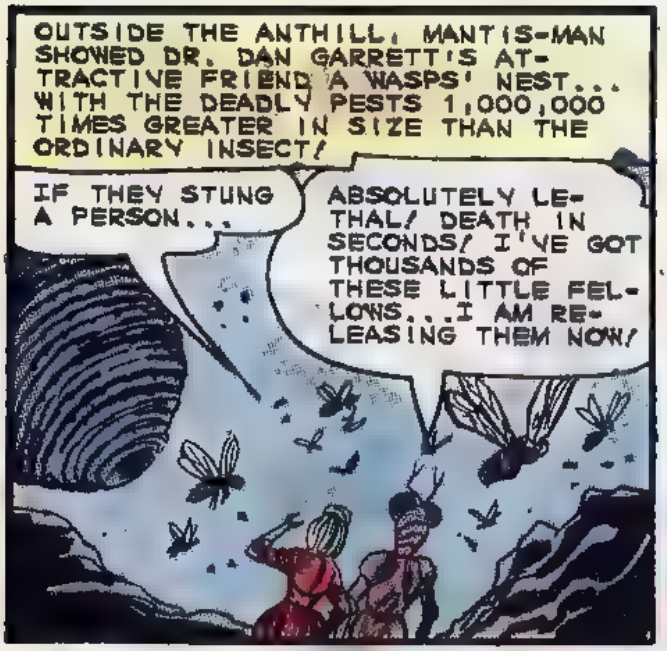
PART 3 THE CAVE OF THE LIVING DEAD

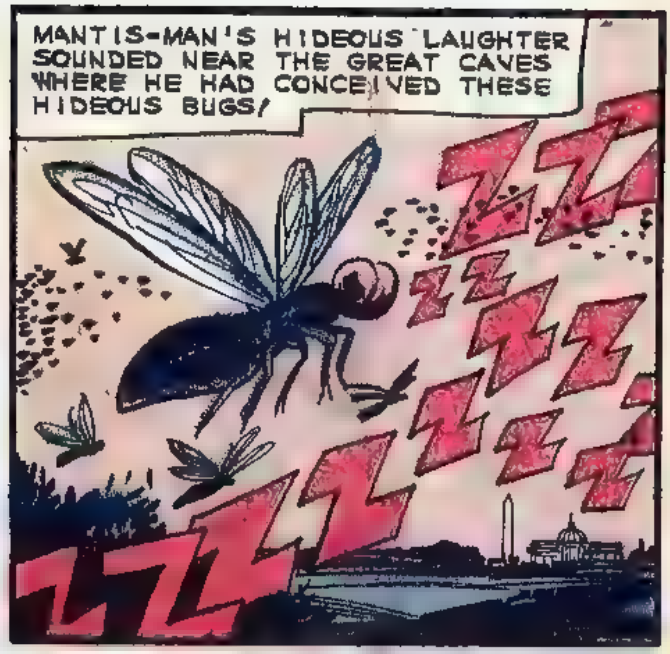
THE WEAPON IN MANTIS-MAN'S HAND HAD THE POWER TO DELIVER ABSOLUTE COLD...384 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT/ THE FRIGID CHARGE CAUGHT BLUE BEETLE AND...





WH-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH ME?
YOU WILL ENJOY THE RARE PRIVILEGE OF SEEING YOUR WORLD DESTROYED/ FIRST...I WILL RELEASE THE WASPS/ COME WITH ME...


OUTSIDE THE ANTHILL, MANTIS-MAN SHOWED DR. DAN GARRETT'S ATTRACTIVE FRIEND A WASPS' NEST... WITH THE DEADLY PESTS 1,000,000 TIMES GREATER IN SIZE THAN THE ORDINARY INSECT!
IF THEY STUNG A PERSON...
ABSOLUTELY LETHAL! DEATH IN SECONDS! I'VE GOT THOUSANDS OF THESE LITTLE FELLOWS...I AM RELEASING THEM NOW!


MANTIS-MAN'S HIDEOUS LAUGHTER SOUNDED NEAR THE GREAT CAVES WHERE HE HAD CONCEIVED THESE HIDEOUS BUGS!
ZZZ
ZZZ
ZZZ

THESE TERMITES ARE ABOUT TO SWARM...I SHALL DIRECT THEM TO SMALL CITIES AT FIRST...THEY CAN OBLITERATE A COMMUNITY IN HOURS!

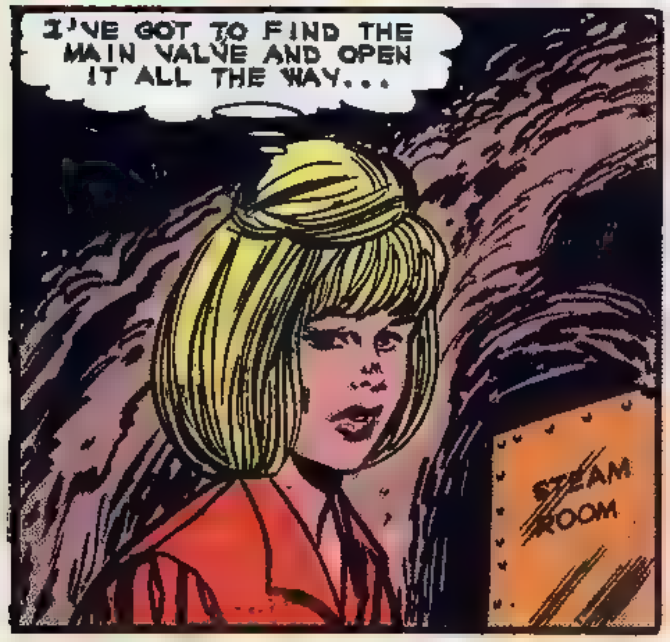
MANTIS-MAN IS INSANE...I'VE GOT TO REVIVE BLUE BEETLE...HE IS THE ONLY HOPE OF MANKIND NOW!

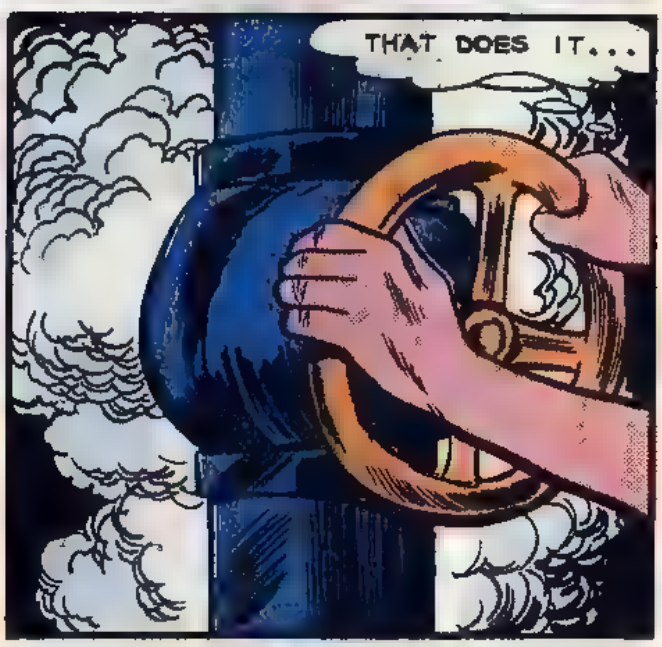
YOU ARE A GENIUS, MANTIS-MAN! I KNOW HOW SHABBILY THE WORLD TREATED YOU -- BEFORE YOU ASSUMED THE GUISE OF THE MANTIS-MAN, YOU WERE CASTIGATED FOR ONE THING... BECAUSE YOU HAD BECOME SATURATED IN CHLOROPHYLL AND TURNED GREEN! THE WORLD DESERVES ITS FATE!

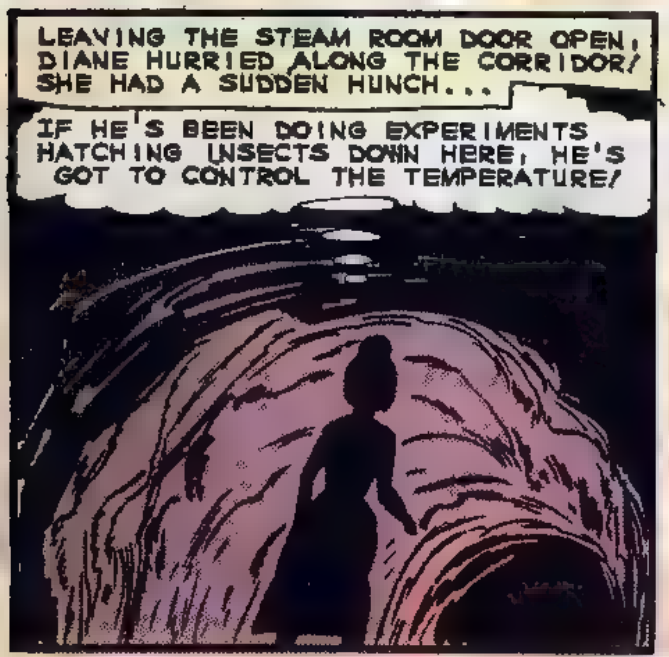
I WILL ENJOY STANDING BY YOUR SIDE AND WATCHING THE WORLD PERISH!

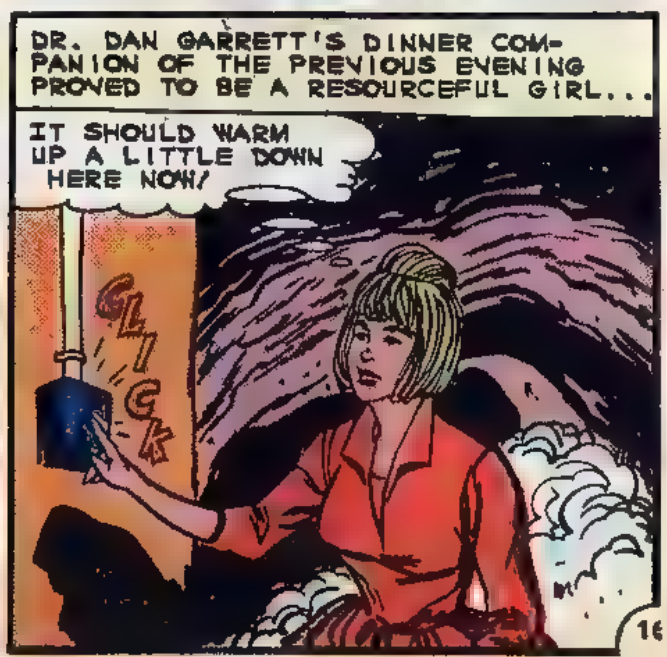
I'M SUCH A MESS! ARE THERE BATHING FACILITIES INSIDE?
PLENTY OF HOT WATER...THERE IS EVEN A STEAM-ROOM! MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME!

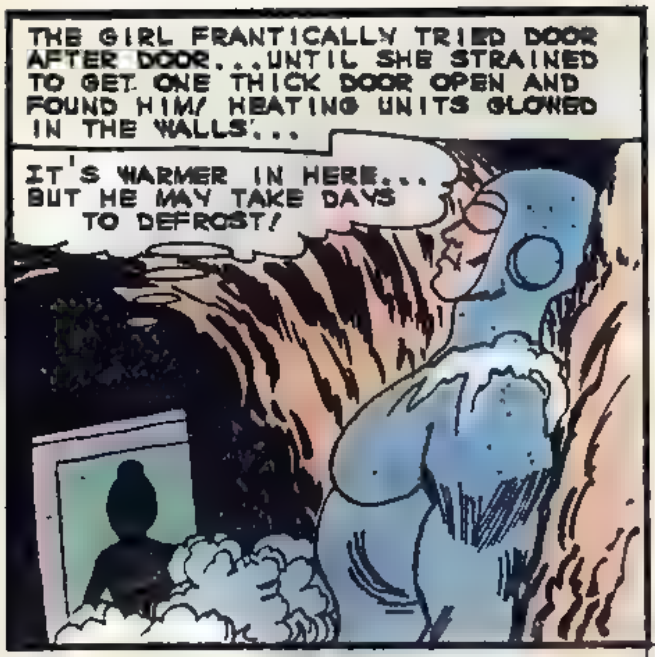
A STEAM ROOM... IF I CAN OPEN A STEAM VALVE...I MAY BE ABLE TO REVIVE BLUE BEETLE!


I'VE GOT TO FIND THE MAIN VALVE AND OPEN IT ALL THE WAY...
STEAM ROOM

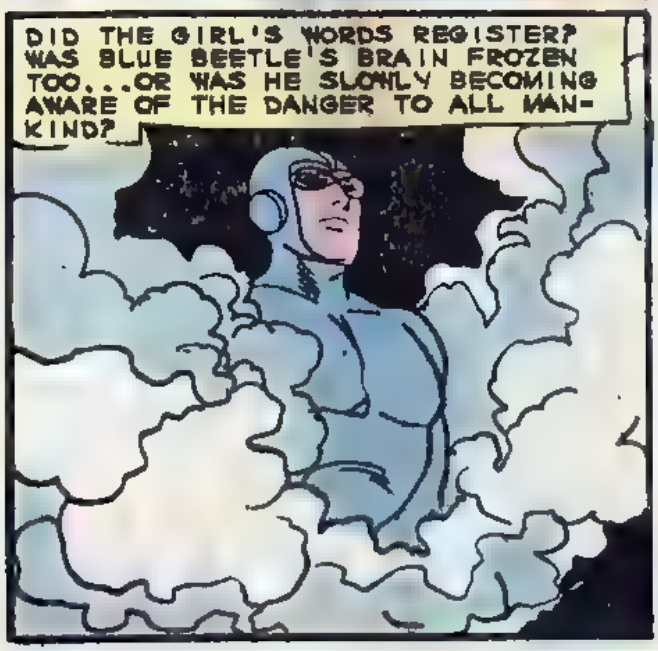

THAT DOES IT...

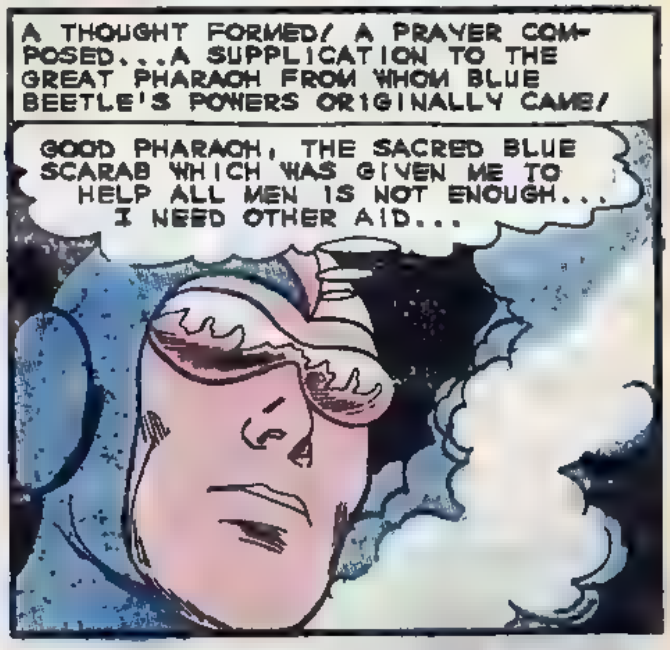

LEAVING THE STEAM ROOM DOOR OPEN, DIANE HURRIED ALONG THE CORRIDOR! SHE HAD A SUDDEN HUNCH...
IF HE'S BEEN DOING EXPERIMENTS HATCHING INSECTS DOWN HERE, HE'S GOT TO CONTROL THE TEMPERATURE!

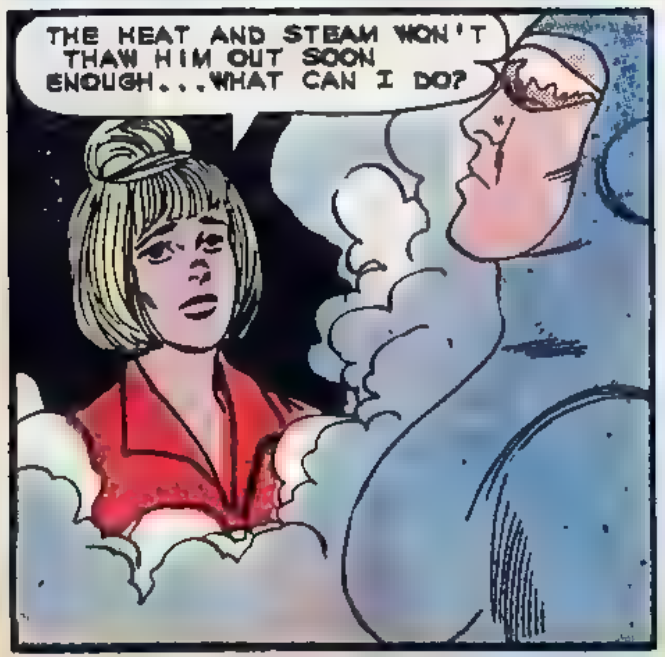

DR. DAN GARRETT'S DINNER COMPANION OF THE PREVIOUS EVENING PROVED TO BE A RESOURCEFUL GIRL...
IT SHOULD WARM UP A LITTLE DOWN HERE NOW!
CLICK


THE GIRL FRANTICALLY TRIED DOOR AFTER DOOR...UNTIL SHE STRAINED TO GET ONE THICK DOOR OPEN AND FOUND HIM/ HEATING UNITS GLOWED IN THE WALLS...
IT'S WARMER IN HERE... BUT HE MAY TAKE DAYS TO DEFROST/

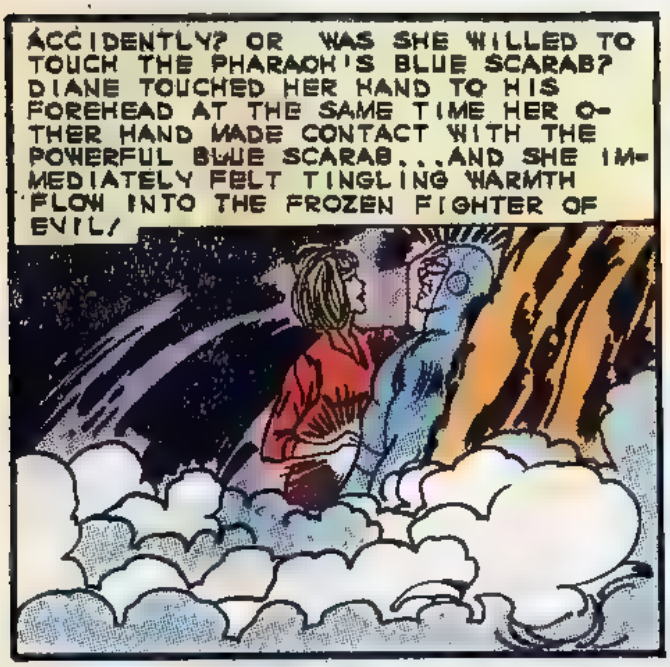
BEFORE SUNDOWN, WHOLE CITIES MAY HAVE PERISHED/ THE GIANT WASPS AND ARMY ANTS CAN ERADICATE COMMUNITIES IN A SHORT TIME/


DID THE GIRL'S WORDS REGISTER? WAS BLUE BEETLE'S BRAIN FROZEN TOO...OR WAS HE SLOWLY BECOMING AWARE OF THE DANGER TO ALL MANKIND?


A THOUGHT FORMED/ A PRAYER COMPOSED...A SUPPLICATION TO THE GREAT PHARAOH FROM WHOM BLUE BEETLE'S POWERS ORIGINALLY CAME/
GOOD PHARAOH, THE SACRED BLUE SCARAB WHICH WAS GIVEN ME TO HELP ALL MEN IS NOT ENOUGH... I NEED OTHER AID...


THE HEAT AND STEAM WON'T THAW HIM OUT SOON ENOUGH...WHAT CAN I DO?

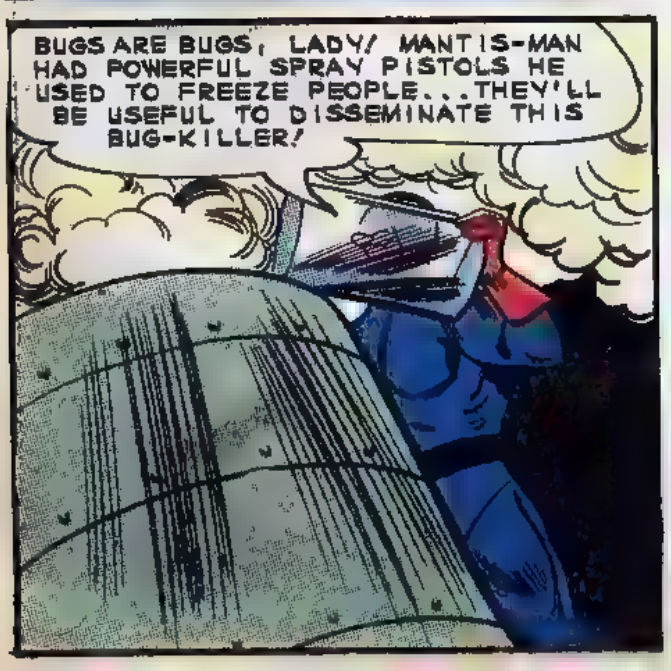
IS HE THAWING OUT? I WONDER...?


ACCIDENTLY? OR WAS SHE WILLED TO TOUCH THE PHARAOH'S BLUE SCARAB? DIANE TOUCHED HER HAND TO HIS FOREHEAD AT THE SAME TIME HER O-THER HAND MADE CONTACT WITH THE POWERFUL BLUE SCARAB...AND SHE IM-MEDIATELY FELT TINGLING WARMTH FLOW INTO THE FROZEN FIGHTER OF EVIL!

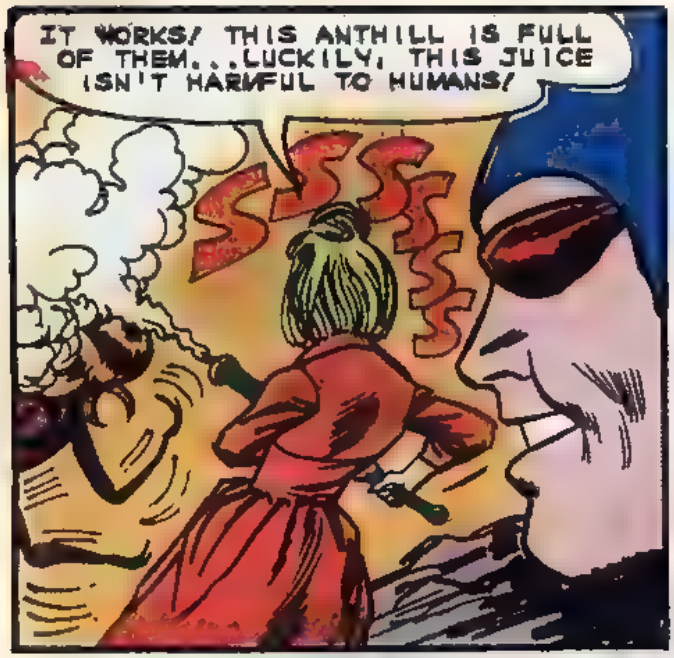
IN SECONDS, BLUE BEETLE WAS SHAKING OFF THE MASSIVE FREEZE...

IN 30 SECONDS, BLUE BEETLE WAS FREED...
THANK HEAVENS! BLUE BEETLE, YOU'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!
COME WITH ME... MANTIS-MAN HAS A LABORATORY HERE SOMEWHERE!

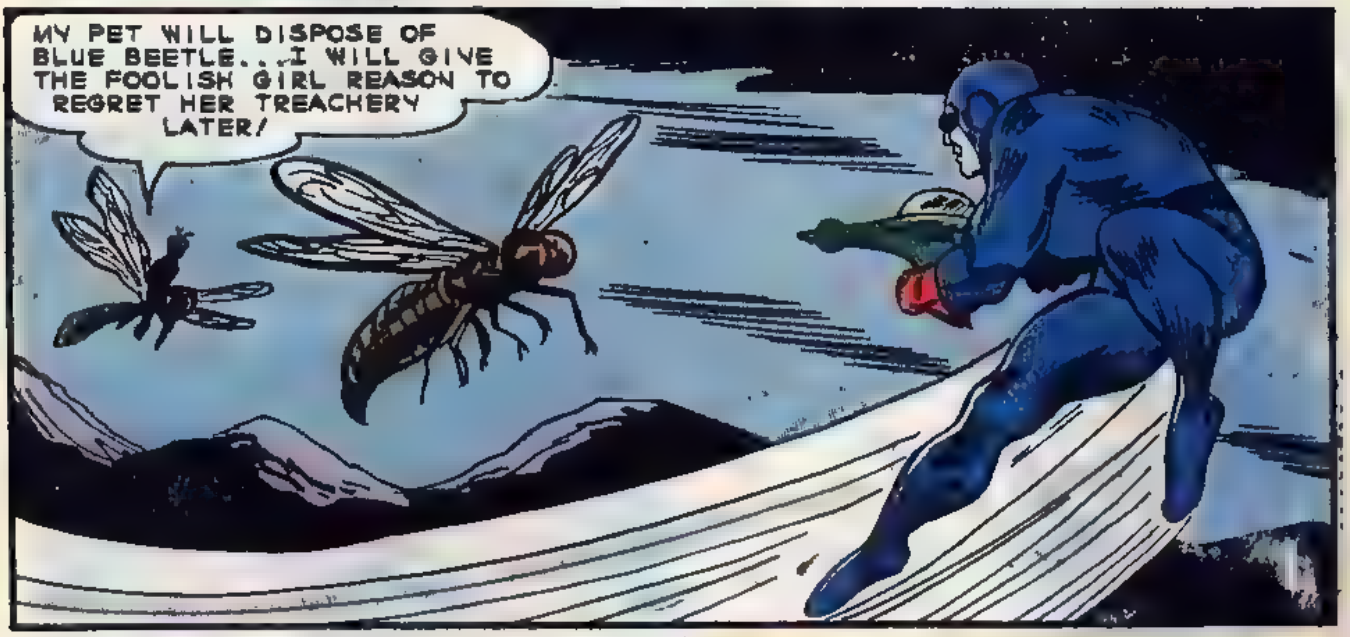
LET'S SEE...HEXACHLORATHYL, SAL CORAMINE, HYDROSULDRYZINE, AND 99 PARTS PURE WATER...MAKES THE MOST EFFECTIVE INSECTICIDE EVER KNOWN TO MAN!
INSECTICIDE! THESE AREN'T ANTS AT A SUNDAY-SCHOOL PICNIC! THEY...


BUGS ARE BUGS, LADY! MANTIS-MAN HAD POWERFUL SPRAY PISTOLS HE USED TO FREEZE PEOPLE...THEY'LL BE USEFUL TO DISSEMINATE THIS BUG-KILLER!

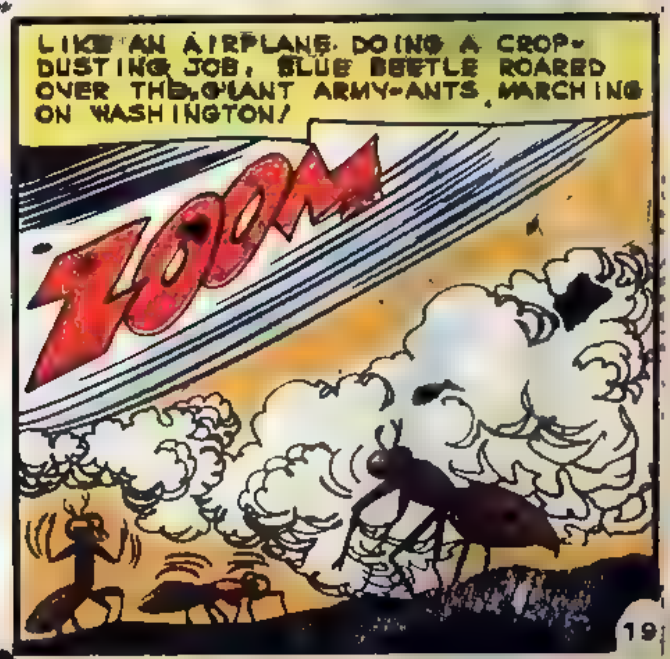
HERE...I JUST FILLED THIS ONE...TRY IT OUT!

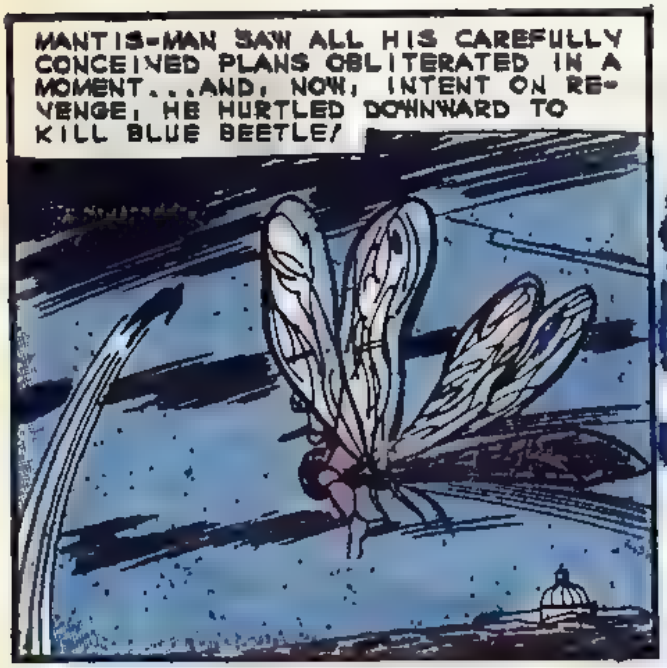

IT WORKS! THIS ANTHILL IS FULL OF THEM...LUCKILY, THIS JUICE ISN'T HARMFUL TO HUMANS!
SSSSSS

LEAVING THE GIRL TO HELP THE FROZEN PEOPLE MANTIS-MAN HAD COLLECTED, BLUE BEETLE ROARED OUT OF THE CAVE...
ZZZZ


MY PET WILL DISPOSE OF BLUE BEETLE...I WILL GIVE THE FOOLISH GIRL REASON TO REGRET HER TREACHERY LATER!

GOT IT!

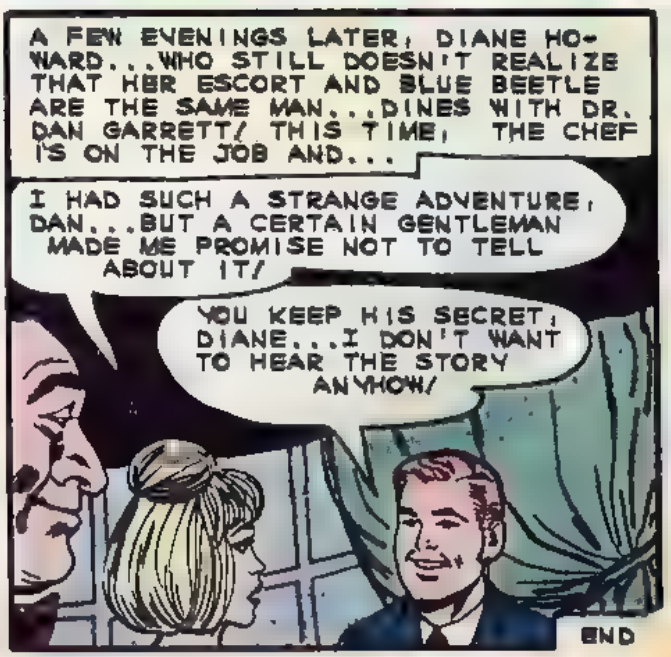

LIKE AN AIRPLANE DOING A CROP-DUSTING JOB, BLUE BEETLE ROARED OVER THE GIANT ARMY-ANTS MARCHING ON WASHINGTON!
ZOOM


MANTIS-MAN SAW ALL HIS CAREFULLY CONCEIVED PLANS OBLITERATED IN A MOMENT...AND, NOW, INTENT ON REVENGE, HE HURTLED DOWNWARD TO KILL BLUE BEETLE!

I MAY NOT SURVIVE NEXT TIME HE STIFFENS ME WITH THAT FRIGI-GUN/ AND MY BIG-GUN WON'T HURT HIM...

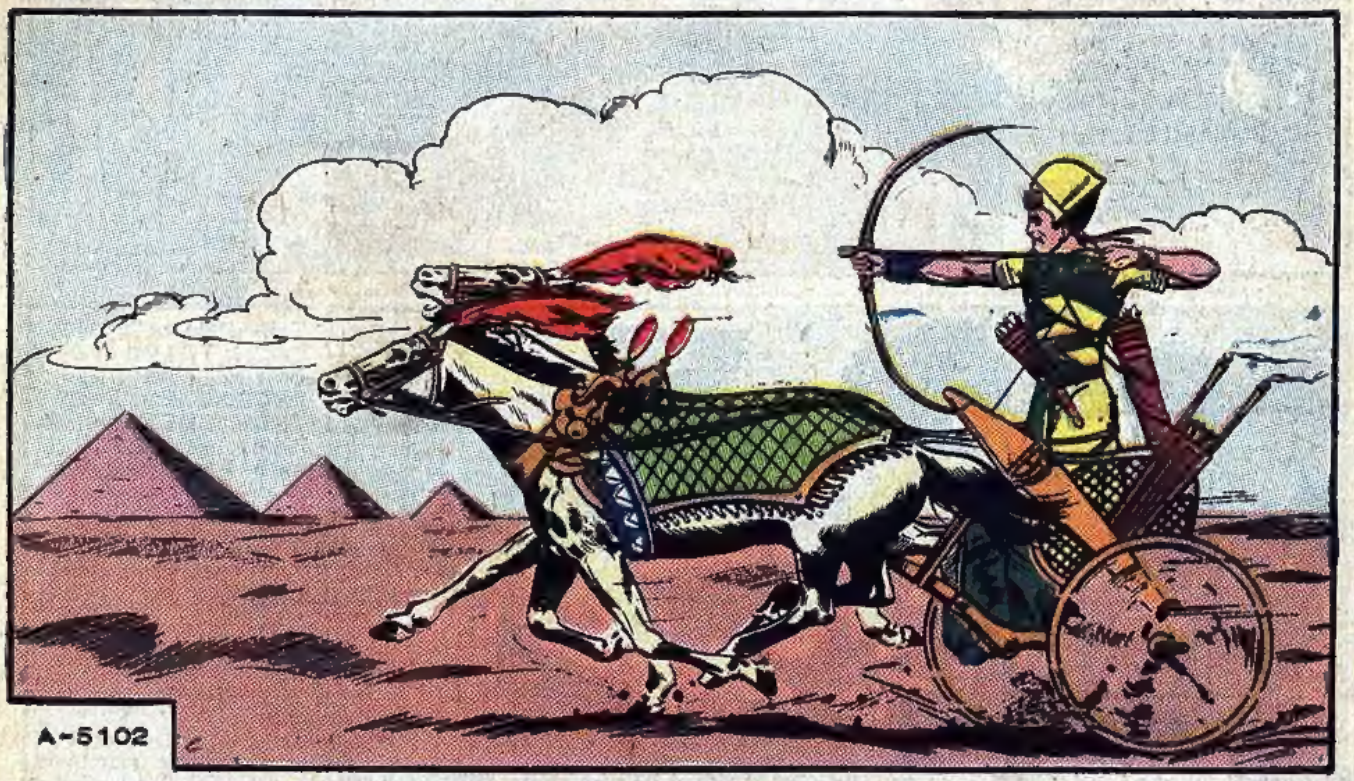
THE INSECTICIDE DIDN'T HURT MANTIS-MAN TOO MUCH...BUT HIS DRAGONFLY COULDN'T STAND IT... AND...

HELP ME, BLUE BEETLE!
DON'T HAVE TIME...I'VE GOT BETTER PEOPLE TO SAVE!


A FEW EVENINGS LATER, DIANE HOWARD...WHO STILL DOESN'T REALIZE THAT HER ESCORT AND BLUE BEETLE ARE THE SAME MAN...DINES WITH DR. DAN GARRETT/ THIS TIME, THE CHEF IS ON THE JOB AND...
I HAD SUCH A STRANGE ADVENTURE, DAN...BUT A CERTAIN GENTLEMAN MADE ME PROMISE NOT TO TELL ABOUT IT/
YOU KEEP HIS SECRET, DIANE...I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THE STORY ANYHOW/
END

THE PYRAMIDS OF GIZA

THE ANCIENT PHARAOHS OF EGYPT USED HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF SLAVES TO ERECT THE AWE-INSPIRING PYRAMIDS...THE THREE LARGEST OF WHICH ARE THESE SITUATED NEAR CAIRO/

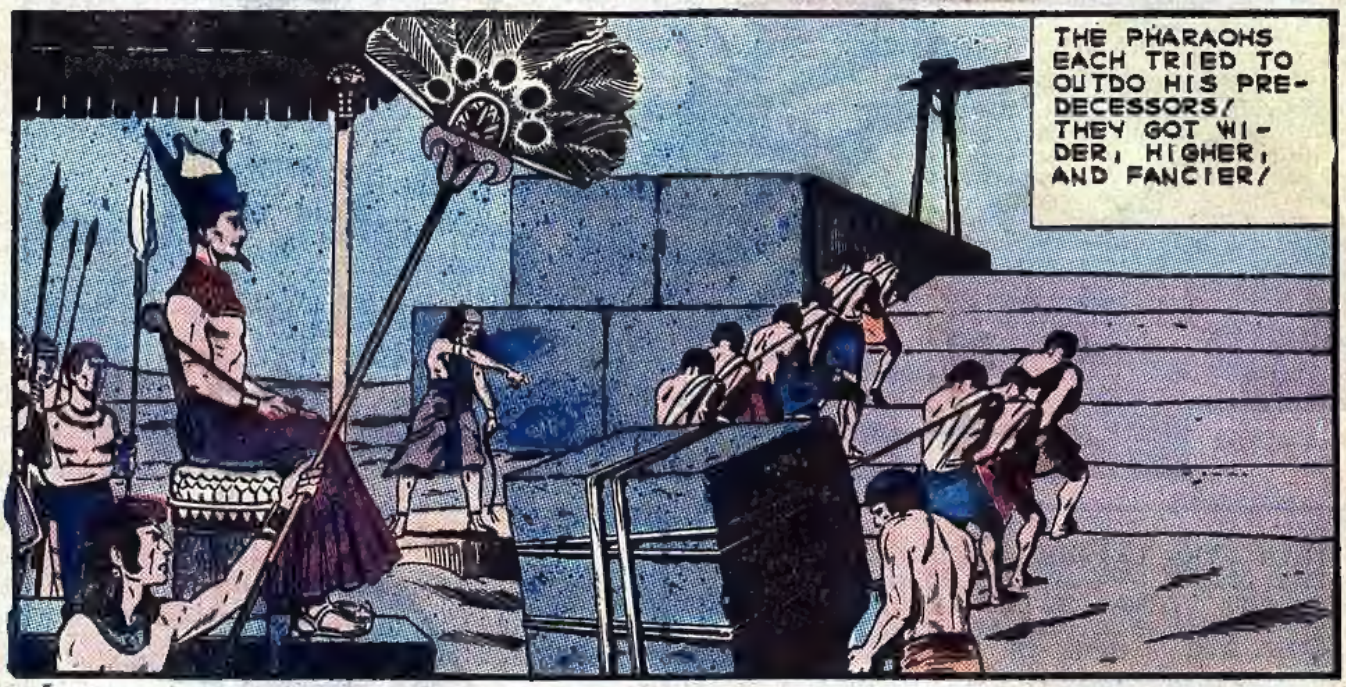


A-5102

THIS, THE LARGEST OF THEM ALL, IS THE GREAT PYRAMID OF CHEOPS...OR KHUFU/ IT WAS BUILT AROUND THE YEAR 4235 B.C. OR MAYBE IT WAS 2450 B.C., GIVE OR TAKE A YEAR OR TWO/ ANYWAY, IT WASN'T BUILT YESTERDAY/

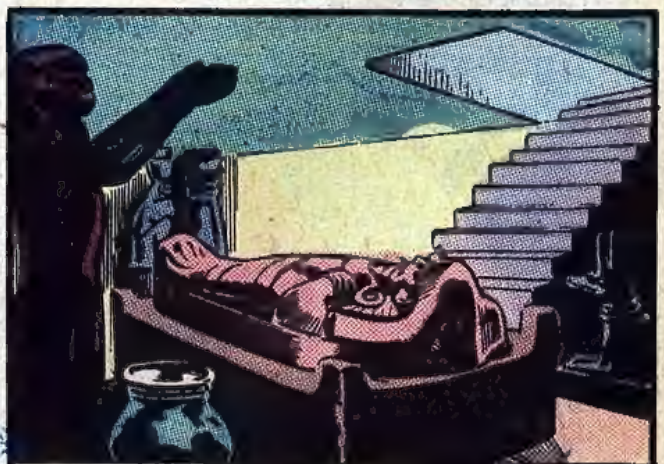
ON DAYS WHEN THE PHARAOHS WEREN'T SCATTERING PYRAMIDS AROUND, THEY TURNED THEIR HANDS TO LIGHTER LABORS/ THIS CHARMER IS CALLED THE SPHINX...

THE PYRAMIDS WERE DEVELOPMENTS OF THE MASTABA, OR BURIAL MOUNDS, IN WHICH THE EARLIEST PHARAOHS WERE INTERRED/ AND THE SPHINX WAS PLACED NEAR THE TOMBS TO FRIGHTEN AWAY THE EVIL SPIRITS WHO MIGHT BE OTHERWISE TEMPTED TO LOITER AROUND THE PYRAMIDS/



THE PHARAOHS EACH TRIED TO OUTDO HIS PREDECESSORS/ THEY GOT WIDER, HIGHER, AND FANCIER/

THE GREAT PYRAMID, FOR EXAMPLE, IS 481 FEET HIGH AND 756 FEET SQUARE/ SCIENTISTS TODAY BELIEVE IT WAS BUILT AS AN ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY...



...BUT THE BASIC REASON FOR BUILDING ALL OF THEM WAS TO GLORIFY THE PHARAOHS WHO WERE ENTOMBED INSIDE/

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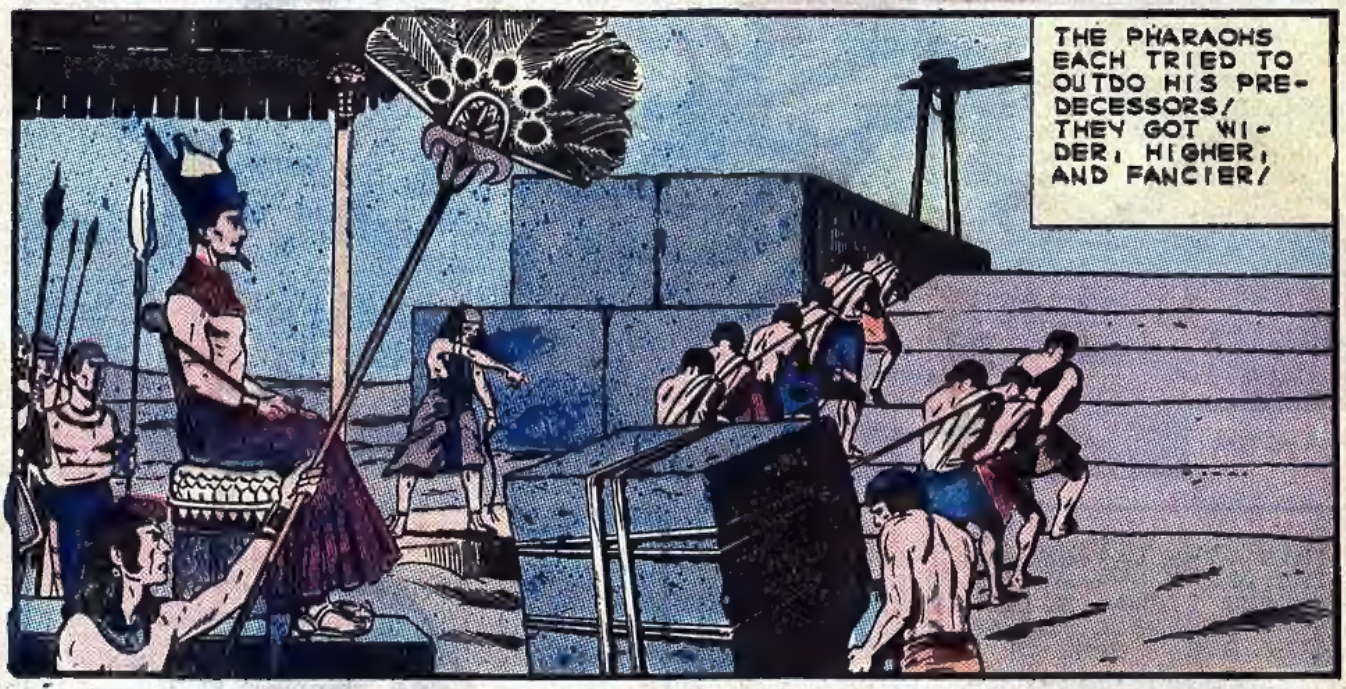

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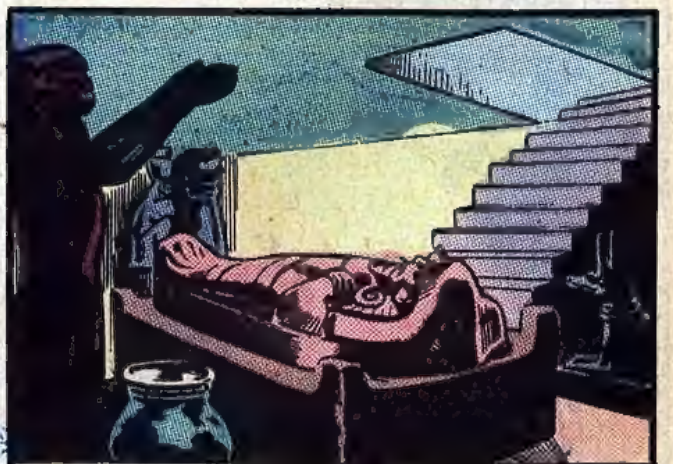


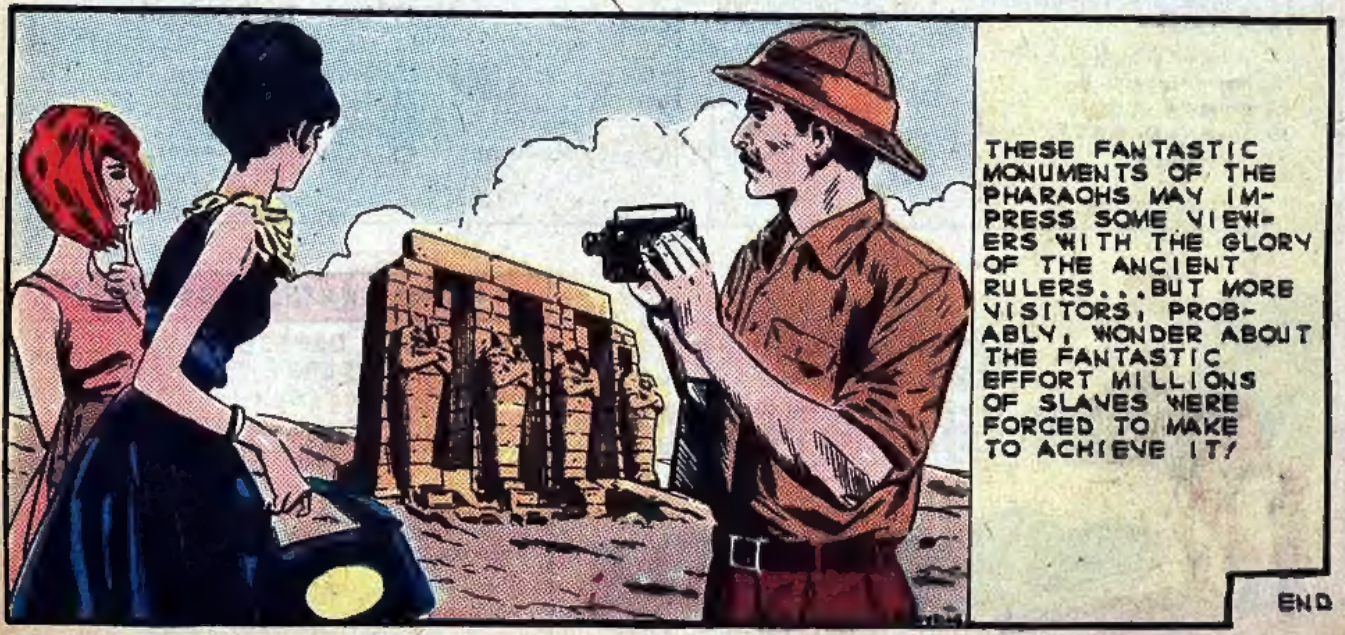
...BUT THE BASIC REASON FOR BUILDING ALL OF THEM WAS TO GLORIFY THE PHARAOHS WHO WERE ENTOMBED INSIDE/

THEY GOT BETTER AT IT/ IN A FEW THOUSAND YEARS, THE PHARAOHS DEMANDED TEMPLES...

AND IN THE VALLEY OF THE KINGS THE TOMBS WERE CUT INTO SOLID ROCK CLIFFS/ THIS, THE TOMB OF TUTANKHAMEN, IS AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF EGYPTIAN ART!

HUGE STATUES OF RAMSES GUARD HIS TEMPLE, EACH 65 FEET TALL...

THE TEMPLE OF AMEN AT KARNAK TOOK MORE THAN 2000 YEARS TO FINISH ...WITH 70 FOOT HIGH COLUMNS AND 122 OF THESE FLANKING THE AISLES IN 9 ROWS/


THESE FANTASTIC MONUMENTS OF THE PHARAOHS MAY IMPRESS SOME VIEWERS WITH THE GLORY OF THE ANCIENT RULERS...BUT MORE VISITORS, PROBABLY, WONDER ABOUT THE FANTASTIC EFFORT MILLIONS OF SLAVES WERE FORCED TO MAKE TO ACHIEVE IT/
END